



Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-89-006
Tuesday
10 January 1989

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Chemical Weapons Conference Activities Highlighted

Loncar Arrives

LD0701035789 Belgrade TANJUG in English
0310 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, January 6 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar arrived in Paris this evening at the head of Yugoslavia's delegation to a conference on chemical weapons.

Representatives of 140 countries start the international conference on banning chemical weapons here tomorrow.

The five-day gathering is aimed at providing political stimulation for the Geneva arms talks to expand the 1925 protocol which bans the use but not the production of chemical weapons.

Loncar is expected to voice Yugoslavia's stand on chemical disarmament on Sunday.

Loncar, Malile Hold Talks

LD0901224789 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 2158 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 9 Jan (TANJUG)—Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, who is leading the Yugoslav delegation at the international conference in Paris on the banning of chemical weapons, had a meeting this evening with Albanian Foreign Minister Reiz Malile. In the talks, it has been learned, discussion focussed on relations between the two countries.

During the evening Budimir Loncar also held talks with the foreign ministers of Angola, Turkey and Indonesia—Afonso van Dunem, Mesut Yilmaz, and Ali Alatas. The subject of their exchange of views was the Nonaligned Movement and its forthcoming tasks from the perspective of the latest international developments.

Olechowski, Italian Counterpart Meet

LD0701231989 Warsaw PAP in English
2123 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 7—Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski met here today with Italian diplomacy chief Giulio Andreotti. Their main topic of talks was bilateral relations whose permanent favourable development and good prospects were evaluated by both ministers with satisfaction.

Both ministers discussed the high-level visits planned for the first half of this year and other important contacts between both countries. They also noted with satisfaction the course of economic cooperation and expressed the hope that the upcoming visits of Polish Government members to Italy would open up new prospects in this field.

Discussing international issues, both diplomats talked, apart from the Paris conference, about the Vienna CSCE meeting. Both foreign ministers were in favour of its quick conclusion and in favour of a constructive introduction of its decisions into life.

Olechowski, FRG Delegate Talk

LD1001000489 Warsaw PAP in English
2121 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 9—Chairman of a Polish delegation to the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons, Poland's Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski today met at the Polish Embassy with his FRG counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The two noted many positive transformations in East-West dialogue and voiced support for the process of limiting arms race one of the manifestations of which is just the Paris conference.

In the context of European problems, especially economic issues, the two stressed the importance of dialogue between the socialist countries and the EEC Commission in Brussels, aimed at creating new forms of cooperation and more effective mutual contacts. Poland is an active EEC partner, and the FRG places first among Poland's West European economic and trade partners.

The talks also focused on bilateral relations, in particular on all elements which make difficult and complicated the process of full normalization of mutual contacts. Both sides are aware that their relations are of great importance and that they go beyond the lane of bilateral contacts. Their meaning is somewhat symbolic as regards reconciliation and cooperation on the European continent. The two sides came out in favour of acceleration of agreement and solution of conflicts so that one could create new prospects for Poland-FRG relations.

The FRG attaches great importance to the coming unofficial visit to that country by Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski in connection with the 75th birthday of former Chancellor Willy Brandt in the second half of January. According to the FRG side the visit will be significant for relations between both countries.

Genscher again invited Olechowski to pay an official visit to Bonn.

Also today Olechowski had talks with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez on Poland's relations with the EEC. Poland is interested in dialogue with this body and in signing an agreement on trade and economic cooperation. The Polish stand met with friendly reception on the Spanish side.

The sides also discussed traditionally good bilateral relations and prospects for their further development, including the future visit in Poland by King Juan Carlos.

Meanwhile, the FRG foreign minister made references to Polish-FRG relations in statements for press and announced that FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl would pay a visit to Poland still this year. As concerns an official visit by Premier Rakowski to Bonn, the coming March is considered, Genscher said. The thing is to create new prospects for expansion of Polish-FRG relations this year, he added.

Fischer Delivers Address

LD0901141789 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1111 GMT 9 Jan 89

"Statement by the GDR foreign minister at the Paris conference on the ban of chemical weapons"—ADN headline]

[Text] Paris (ADN)—The text of the statement by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer is as follows:

Mr President,

Please permit me to thank the French Government for the invitation to this international meeting, for the generous hospitality.

The initiative taken up by President Mitterrand testifies to France's special commitment as depository of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and underlines the weight of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

This conference is taking place at a time when, despite all the complications of the international development, a change from confrontation to detente is taking shape. The Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Shorter- and Intermediate-Range Nuclear Missiles has opened the door for disarmament. With this, it is being recognized for the first time that today more weapons do not mean more security. It has also been proved: Even difficult problems can be solved through negotiations providing that political will for it exists.

Speedy action is now needed to permit no delay, to make progress regarding nuclear, chemical, as well as conventional disarmament. The present security is not stable. Now, as before, there exist immense arsenals of weapons of the most diverse kind. And there are already attempts to ruin disarmament in one area through modernization in others.

Insisting on the concept of a deterrent leads to constantly new, constantly more modern armament. And this—as shown by current events in the Mediterranean region—is used against smaller states with no regard to the international consequences. This is inconsistent with the requirements of our time. The nuclear age demands—as Albert Einstein said—new thinking and new action. It demands that the ability of mutual destruction be replaced by the inability to perpetrate aggression. Therefore, disarmament, begun so very recently and timidly, must be made irreversible, security must be guaranteed

jointly. The proposals submitted by the GDR and the other Warsaw Pact states are aimed at this. No type of weapon is excluded, and any means of verification is possible.

"The GDR welcomes and supports, fully and totally," Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State has said, "the new far-reaching proposals and initiatives presented by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in New York before the world body of the United Nations, to great applause. They aim at continuing and deepening the process of disarmament with new concrete steps. The Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact states, in the interest of safeguarding international security and consolidating peace, are thus again making important advance concessions. This testifies to their seriousness and determination to realize their peace program."

For mankind to survive, Mr President, immediate effective disarmament is needed. All countries are called upon to make their contribution toward this.

The solving of issues, such as halving the numbers of the strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and United States and the ban of nuclear tests, is a great challenge.

In the international disarmament negotiations the ban on the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their destruction have an outstanding place. It seems to us significant that the USSR and United States have not only presented comprehensive proposals, but support multilateral negotiations through bilateral talks.

This conference here in Paris is part of the effort to rid the world of mass destruction weapons. It will—we hope—speak out clearly and unambiguously for the complete elimination of chemical weapons by the end of this century. Thus, a demand, which arose in 1915 under the impression made by the deadly gas clouds of Ypres, would finally be met.

The GDR 30 years ago called for the reapplication of the 1925 Geneva Protocol without any reservations. It was one of the first states to sign and ratify the convention on the ban of biological weapons.

I wish to reaffirm here that the GDR does not own any chemical weapons, and has not deployed any such weapons of other states on its territory. It pursues neither the development of chemical weapons, nor does it have any plants for their production. In Geneva the GDR is actively campaigning to draft a convention for the ban of chemical weapons.

In this, global solutions and regional steps are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary. Both ways can and must be embarked upon in order to achieve more security in as many regions as possible, and in as many areas as possible.

The chemical weapon-free zone proposed by the GDR for central Europe—a region of the highest concentration of weapons—would be a truly confidence-building and security measure, which would promote a global solution. The GDR is prepared to immediately start negotiations with the CSSR and FRG on ridding or keeping free of chemical weapons the territories of the three states. The parts of the convention already worked out in Geneva could thus be tested.

Mr President,

For as long as chemical weapons are kept in arsenals, all efforts will be needed to achieve a ban on their use. We resolutely reject any violation of the Geneva Protocol. This important international document must be strengthened. The addition of more states would be useful.

The best guarantee against the use of chemical weapons is, however, their complete elimination. The convention aimed at this should at the same time contain an absolute ban on their use. The form of the treaty is already discernible. Agreements on the majority of the important stipulations exist. However, the modernization of chemical weapons, above all the development and production of binary weapons, is having an adverse effect.

Agreement on the still unresolved questions can be achieved only with the will to succeed and the willingness for compromise on all sides. A foreign ministers' meeting—as proposed by the GDR at the third UN special meeting in June 1988—could certainly give a strong impetus toward this. The appeal by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar for a concerted political campaign meets with our support.

The convention would be effective if first it provides for the complete elimination of all stockpiles of chemical weapons and their production basis, and excludes their reestablishment; second if it guarantees an effective examination of meeting the obligations entered into and contains effective measures against violations; and third, if it is of a universal nature.

The GDR is prepared to join such a convention at once. Its rapid conclusion would be made easier through an international moratorium on the production of chemical weapons.

Likewise, confidence-building measures would be useful for the negotiations, such as the exchange of relevant data, and trial inspections. The more states taking part, the greater the effect.

As far as the GDR is concerned, it has presented data on chemicals which could be affected by a future convention. An international expert seminar in one of our country's large chemical plants was held 2 years ago. A recent national trial inspection confirmed that it is possible to develop reliable checks which do not entail any economic drawbacks for industry, but which strengthen confidence.

May I state in this connection: The GDR is prepared to have an international trial inspection in one of its chemical plants. Until the universal effectiveness of a convention on the ban of chemical weapons is achieved, it is necessary to prevent their proliferation. Correspondingly, in 1987 the GDR introduced export regulations for chemicals which can be used both for peaceful purposes as well as for the production of chemical weapons.

Mr President,

This conference should end with a result

- which commits states to the speedy conclusion of the convention on the ban of chemical weapons, the intensification of the negotiations at the Geneva disarmament conference, and the broader participation in confidence-building measures,
- which appeals to states to join the convention early,
- which affirms the Geneva Protocol, calls for strict appliance to it and the expansion of its membership, and which, finally,
- supports regional measures in order to prevent the use of chemical weapons, and which promote a global solution.

The GDR will continue to spare no effort in making its contribution to ridding mankind of all mass destruction weapons.

The ban on chemical weapons would be a milestone along this path.

I thank you.

Fischer Confers With Dumas

LD0901152289 East Berlin in ADN International Service
in German 1356 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Paris, (ADN).—Oskar Fischer, GDR Foreign Minister, met for an exchange of views on Monday with Roland Dumas, president of the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons, minister of state for foreign affairs of the French Republic. They discussed current aspects of the conference's work.

Oskar Fischer underlined that the GDR has been doing everything in its power over the years to bring about an early worldwide ban of chemical weapons. Roland Dumas emphasized the identical views of France and the GDR that everything must be done at this conference to remove the remaining obstacles in the negotiations at the

Geneva Disarmament Conference on a global and comprehensive ban of chemical weapons. The ministers said it is encouraging that nearly all the state representatives participating in the Paris conference have spoken out in this spirit. Oskar Fischer referred to the statement by the Soviet foreign minister on Sunday, and underlined that it would be good if other states emulated this example.

Discussing the state of bilateral cooperation, Oskar Fischer and Roland Dumas affirmed the will of the two sides to continue to purposefully strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

Dumas Pays Tribute to GDR

AU0901125589 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG
in German 4 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Paris (ADN/BZ)—As one of the most important East European countries, the GDR has a firm place in France's foreign policy considerations, and in particular plays a very important role in solving the problem of conventional disarmament in Europe, said French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in a GDR television interview in Paris yesterday [3 January]. He said that the GDR is highly respected, has a good strategy, and an efficient economy. Asked about the political importance of the chemical weapons conference beginning in Paris this weekend, the minister said that President Mitterrand fully supports such a meeting.

Totu Supports Ban

AU0901185689 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1740 GMT 9 Jan 89

["Romanian Foreign Minister's Address at Paris Conference"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Paris AGERPRES 9/1/1989—Speaking in the Monday session of the conference, Foreign Minister Ioan Totu showed that Romania was attending the conference out of its constant desire to support the actions that will contribute to the halting of the arms race and to an effective passage to disarmament, for a ban on all arms of mass destruction, for drastic cuts in conventional weapons, troops and military spending which are a fundamental line of its foreign policy.

As the president of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, said not long ago "at a time when large quantities of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction that can destroy mankind several times over have accumulated in the world, there is no other way, no other policy than to altogether renounce force, war, to promote new thinking and a new democratic policy that should rule out force and war from the international life."

The theme of our conference is of outstanding significance. Indeed, we must take action to prevent a recourse ever to chemical weapons, to eliminate them completely.

Romania is a party to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 for the prohibition of the use in war of chemical weapons, and undertook to observe the provisions of the document with respect to all the states that made similar commitments and that abide by them in their relations with Romania.

At the time of the adoption of the protocol—which many countries did not sign—its role was positive. However, great changes have since taken place internationally.

Therefore, in making the decision to reconfirm the validity of the 1925 protocol we must take into account the present international circumstances, which differ fundamentally from those more than half a century ago.

The speaker went on to say that the current threat of another world war linked to the nuclear build-up of some states, to the "nuclear deterrent" conceived as defence, the large accumulation of ever more sophisticated nuclear weaponry which, if used, could destroy mankind, the very conditions of life on earth. Also the chemical weapon has been improved since it was first made. Against the commitments made under the Geneva Protocol, the chemical weapon is today integrated into the actual arming and warfare tactics, jointly with the nuclear weapons, both classes having mass destruction as their effect.

These developments are set against the background of the policy of force and interference in the domestic affairs of states, of the persisting states of tension and conflict in various parts of the world, and of economic disparities—which are themselves further sources of tension. Even though in recent years positive steps were taken on the path of disarmament and political settlement of conflicts and talks intensified for the negotiated settlement of comprehensive problems, arms continued to be manufactured and proliferated. The international situation is still grave and complex.

Therefore, it is the view of Romania, clearly stated by its president, Nicolae Ceausescu, a few days ago that the ban on chemical weapons should be closely linked with the prohibition of the other arms of mass destruction, the nuclear weapons first of all. It is unconceivable that a chemical weapon ban can be effective unless a general agreement is made to renounce and eliminate, during a certain time, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

Starting from the principle of self-defence and deterrence of any aggression, a ban on chemical arms and their use can only be achieved if action and practical measures are taken simultaneously to reduce and eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, and other weapons, to eliminate the policy of threat and use force in international life, to set interstate relations on a new basis, of equal rights, respect for independence and sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs. Actually, at a time when a number of states are arming themselves with the nuclear weapon, when the nuclear

war threat exists, the non-nuclear countries may consider the chemical weapon as a deterrent as well, the Romanian foreign minister said.

We are for a passage to the liquidation of chemical weapons and for the elimination, in several stages, of all nuclear arms. The elimination of chemical weapons and of nuclear weapons should be simultaneous, to ensure a balance of forces and to prevent the use of some arms to blackmail states. At the same time, we are for conventional arms and military spending cuts to be made jointly with the elimination of chemical and nuclear weapons.

Simultaneous chemical, nuclear and conventional disarmament measures will ensure international stability and rule out all possibility of threat or use of force by some states with respect to others.

All these measures should be carried through under strict international control to ensure compliance with the obligations that had been assumed, to build up confidence and security worldwide.

Therefore, said the speaker, it is our opinion that an agreement on banning the use and production of chemical weapons and on the destruction of the existing stockpiles should be closely linked to the liquidation of nuclear weapons, to an end to their manufacture and testing, to a ban on nuclear weapons.

Romania—which declared it did not possess the chemical weapon—will further take action to speed up the work of the Geneva conference in both fields and to effectively commit it to the negotiation of an international instrument banning and eliminating the nuclear weapon.

We also take action for the creation of a zone of peace, collaboration and good neighbourliness in the Balkans, free of chemical and nuclear weapons conceived of in close unity.

According to the same view, we support similar proposals of other countries concerning central Europe and other parts of the world. Moreover, the proliferation of chemical weapons and the ban on their production should be correlated with the development of the chemical industry for peaceful purposes, and the technological and scientific potential of each country. This calls for free and unrestricted participation in the exchange of products, in international cooperation in this sphere.

In light of the above, stressed the speaker, Romania is of the opinion that this conference should take a global view of facts. Let us analyse them as they are, and take action together to reach common solutions.

The political document we would have to adopt should not only reconfirm the Geneva Protocol of 1925, but also stress the requirement for a universal convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons jointly with the liquidation of nuclear weapons.

The simultaneous elimination of all weapons of mass destruction weapons, of all weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or any other kind—is the only guarantee against their use.

Our action should be regarded as part of a wide effort of passage to effective general disarmament measures, to the elimination of the threat and use of force in interstate relations.

The recent serious event in the Mediterranean brings again into the focus the threats to world peace and security posed by the presence of navies and the shows of force in international waters. Romania takes this opportunity to re-state that foreign military ships should be withdrawn from international waters, that the oceans and seas should be free of any military presence, that an end should be put to the shows of force of the borders of states. Furthermore, Romania is firmly for the international air space to be used only for peaceful purposes, against all military exercises and actions in that space.

We think that the UN [United Nations], whose chief mission is to maintain international peace and security, to save mankind from the scourge of war, should assume a greater responsibility both for the promotion of this unitary concept and for the ensurance of compliance by the member states of the international agreements and other legal instruments in the field of disarmament.

Our conference has set to attain a generous aim. It is in the unanimous interest of mankind that its debate be held in a constructive spirit and help concerting the efforts of all states to achieve its aim.

Romania along with the other states is ready to make its active contribution to that aim.

Mladenov Holds Talks

*AU1001075289 Sofia BTA in English
2040 GMT 9 Jan 89*

[Text] Paris, January 9 (BTA correspondent)—Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, who is in Paris to take part in the international conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons, this morning had a meeting with Mr Roland Dumas, minister of foreign affairs of France. Views on the progress of the conference were exchanged and a satisfaction was expressed with the fact that it is being held in the spirit of goodwill, which raises hopes that the participants will work out their common position on the problem of the destruction of chemical weapons. It would be an important political prerequisite for the successful outcome of the Geneva

disarmament negotiations and for drawing up a convention which would free mankind for ever from the threat chemical weapons pose. Great attention was paid to the present condition of the relations between Bulgaria and France and to the prospects for their further development. The two sides also discussed the preparations for the forthcoming visit of Mr Francois Mitterrand, president of France, to Bulgaria. They also expressed the readiness of the two countries to extend contacts in all fields.

The work of the Paris conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons was also discussed at the meetings Mr Petur Mladenov had today with Mr Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, minister of foreign affairs of Cuba, and Mr Budimir Loncar, federal secretary of foreign affairs of Yugoslavia. It was pointed out that the socialist countries are making an important contribution to the successful completion of the conference. The great importance of the new proposals contained in the speech delivered by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, which show the way to complete elimination of chemical weapons within the shortest possible time, was particularly underlined.

During the discussion with the Cuban minister of foreign affairs, attention was paid to the situation in southern Africa. The Bulgarian side appreciated Cuba's contribution to the settlement of the regional problems in this part of the world. It was pointed out that now the entry into force and the implementation of the agreements reached are seen as the next priorities in that region. The two ministers gave a high assessment to the fraternal cooperation between Bulgaria and Cuba. They emphasized the two countries' will to advance it further in all fields. In this connection some questions of the extension of humanitarian cooperation were also discussed.

At the meeting with Mr Budimir Loncar attention was focussed on the cooperation in the Balkans in harmony with the all-European process. The two ministers underlined the importance of the multilateral meetings in the Balkans and expressed the readiness of the two countries to contribute to the further promotion of this form of international relations. Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations were assessed positively and the possibilities for their further advancement were discussed.

Gjyzari Submits 1989 Draft Plan to Assembly
AU0201181189 Tirana ZERI / POPULLIT in Albanian
28 Dec 88 p 1-3

["On the Fulfillment of the 1988 Plan and the Main Tasks of the Draft Plan for the Development of the Economy and Culture in 1989—Report Presented in the Name of the Council of Ministers by Comrade Niko Gjyzari, Chairman of the State Planning Commission," at the session of the People's Assembly in Tirana on 27 December 1988]

[Text] Comrade deputies, at this session of the People's Assembly, we will consider the achievements in the development of the economy and culture during 1988 and approve the tasks of the plan and the budget for next year. Because of the difficulties we overcame this year and the problems ahead of us, and also because of the place the 1989 Plan holds within the objectives of the eighth 5-year period, this present assembly of deputies assumes particular importance for the help that it must give in further developing all fields of socioeconomic activity.

Now that the year is drawing to a close, and as we draw a realistic balance of achievements and shortcomings, we can say that the workers class, the peasantry, and all the nation's working people, led by the party, have worked very responsibly and with general mobilization to overcome the well-known difficulties caused by unfavorable weather conditions, the effects of the world economic crisis, and material and technical shortages, especially in some branches of production.

When we consider the stability and progress of our economy, despite sluggish rates in some sectors, and when we see the people's increasing prosperity and the homeland's stronger defense capability, we can say that during this year the efforts of our working people have been greater and more fruitful, that the management and organizational work of state and economic authorities has been of a higher standard, that the unity of the people has been forged more strongly, and that we have additional opportunities for progress. The splendid commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Comrade Enver Hoxha's birth gave a boost to our pride, gave us fresh creative energy, and invigorated the social motive power of our socialist order. The Agricultural Cooperatives Congress gave a fresh impetus to socialist democracy and consolidated our opportunities for progress in agriculture and all our rural life.

It is a tribute to the party line, and a success of our socialist order, that, even under exceptional natural circumstances and at times when there are economic imbalances, social upheavals, and debts everywhere in the world, Socialist Albania is making progress relying on its own energies and resources, without extending its palm to anybody. The facts that social production is increasing, investments are being supplemented, social issues are proceeding smoothly, and the nation's independence is being strengthened are of great importance.

In the struggle against difficulties, the working masses' militancy and spirit of sacrifice has been even more strongly evident, valuable experience has been gained in rationally using the nation's material and financial resources, and the necessary balance has been struck between the current vital needs of our society and the need to ensure our future by further developing our productive capacities.

The sound internal situation and internationalist foreign policy of our state have further raised the prestige of Socialist Albania in the international arena. The steps that have been taken in 1988 to extend ties and cooperation in different fields, and our constructive spirit at the meeting of foreign ministers of Balkan states and in the activity that ensued from it are an indisputable expression of the many efforts of our state to strengthen peace, friendship, cooperation, and good neighborliness with different countries and states in the world, particularly in the Balkans.

Comrade deputies, allow me, in the name of the Council of Ministers, to report to the present session on our achievements in fulfilling the 1988 Plan and the main tasks in the draft plan for the development of the economy and culture in 1989.

I. On Fulfilling the 1988 Plan

During the year as a whole, expanded reproduction in industry and other sectors of the economy was largely realized, the real incomes and purchasing of working people rose, additions to the labor force were employed normally, and several measures were implemented to increase the incentives of particular aspects of socialist production relations.

Steps forward were taken in the industrial processing of the country's resources through better exploiting existing productive capacity and constructing and commissioning new capacity. The mining industry, especially in copper extraction and enrichment, ferronickel, and coal, fulfilled and surpassed its planned targets, as well as further expanding its level of exploitation and processing. Targets were also met and surpassed in the nonferrous metal industry, in ferrochrome production, phosphate fertilizers, copper wire and cables, in some working collectives of the engineering industry, and in the light and food industries. Efforts were made in the iron and steel industry, the chemical industry, the construction materials and timber industries, and so forth, and these in general approached plan fulfillment. In 1988, attention was paid to delivering and processing agricultural and animal products more quickly, to increasing the range of products, improving quality, and increasing the effectiveness of material production. Conditions were created to exploit water resources more rationally and scientifically in the production of electrical power.

Greater wheat and agricultural production was achieved than ever before. The wheat production plan was fulfilled and exceeded in many districts; Elbasan, Gramsh,

Kukes, Librazhd, and so forth, were outstanding. The achievements in wheat testify to our need and opportunity to optimize production factors to achieve high and stable yields in other crops as well.

More work was done in 1988 to add to the number of livestock and increase the production of animal products. As the Sixth Agricultural Cooperatives Congress pointed out, the significant growth in stockraising is thanks to the peasantry's initiative to create small flocks and herds at brigade level. In 1988, milk production was 38,000 tonnes higher than in the previous year, 6 million more eggs were produced, and so forth. The goal that had been set of supplying the members of cooperatives and working people in agricultural enterprises with fresh milk from the production of small herds was achieved on schedule. The northeast region was given priority support with material and technical resources, investments, cadres, and so on. In this zone, including Librazhd, agricultural production rose by 10-15 percent compared with 1987.

In 1988, the method of mass actions was used more extensively in fulfilling tasks, especially in such major projects of the 5-year period as the Banje hydroelectric complex, the Milot-Rreshen-Klos youth railroad, in projects in the chrome industry, and so forth. The drinking water mass action was successfully carried out, and new water supply systems were constructed, or existing ones improved, in about 340 villages or areas. The Bogove water supply system was completed on schedule. In 1988, work continued on 235 production and sociocultural projects, and 163 of these were put to use.

Achievements were also recorded in the development of transportation, education, culture, health, science, and physical culture, in refining socialist relations in production, and in meeting the people's needs for different consumer goods and services. In comparison with 1987, retail turnover in the state and cooperative retail network grew by 2.7 percent, and the volume of communal services and repairs grew by 5.6 percent.

All these achievements have their value and encourage us in the new tasks that lie ahead of us. However, when we talk about achievements, we must pay more attention to the objectives of the plans and the needs of society. As for the first of these aspects, there were nonfulfillments in some sectors, particularly in agriculture, the oil industry, electrical power, and chrome, that will have an effect on this year's balance sheet. As for the second aspect, the needs of society, we view the process of their growth optimistically, alongside cultural development and the rising prosperity of working people. However, this development and stimulus also makes demands on the economy and increases the obligations of state and economic bodies, of science, and all working people to fulfill and exceed annual and 5-year plans.

As Comrade Ramiz Alia has said, plans are fulfilled and prospects become clearer when work is intensified to discover untapped opportunities and to identify new reserves that arise in the course of the inexorable development of the economy, when the creative and mobilizing spirit of labor rises through a responsible awareness of situations, and when people work militantly to perform their tasks. The active and guiding force of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Finance, the State Control Commission, and other managerial and scientific organizations should have been more evident this year.

Greater deficits arose in agriculture and hydroelectricity because of unfavorable weather conditions. In agriculture, there were significant deficits in corn, sugar beet, tobacco, sunflowers, beans, potatoes, cotton, and so forth. These nonfulfillments placed burdens on the economy in different fields. In some cases, supplies to the people became more problematic, supplies of animal fodder and of raw materials to industry were disrupted, and the economy was obliged to import larger quantities of some food items than were planned.

The nonfulfillments in agriculture are primarily the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and the executive committees of people's councils in the districts, especially those of Fier, Lushnje, Durrës, Korce, Berat, Sarandë, Shkoder, Vlore, and Mat. Even under this year's conditions, there were advanced collectives who were at the forefront. Elbasan District fulfilled 95 percent of its corn plan, while other districts in the lowland region fulfilled their plans by 55-77 percent. Durrës District achieved a yield of about 30 quintals per hectare, while the Rrogozhinë agricultural cooperative and the Gose enterprise obtained about 60 quintals per hectare, and so forth. As the Sixth Agricultural Cooperatives Congress confirmed, it is precisely these major reserves that must be put to use under exceptional circumstances that were not exploited to the proper extent because of shortcomings in management and direction.

State and economic bodies, centrally and at the base, despite the instructions of the AWP Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, did not take the lead fast enough in coping with situations that arose in the course of carrying out the plan, and did not in every case properly provide solutions to problems encountered in production. They often did not react on time and set in motion all the intellectual and physical resources of the working people in their sector to alleviate and eliminate the negative influence of objective factors. In particular, the Ministry of Industry and Mines, the Ministries of Energy, Agriculture, Foreign Trade, and others, as well as state and economic bodies at the base, did not work imaginatively and with initiative and did not succeed in combating complacency and self-satisfaction with sufficient vigor.

In the analyses it has carried out, the Council of Ministers has reached the conclusion that the causes of the nonfulfillments in the oil sector have to do with the

meager effectiveness of measures to stabilize and increase oil and gas extraction from the active stock of wells, to the low level of success in new wells, to scientific and organizational difficulties in the drilling and commissioning of wells, and so forth. The situation in the oil industry places responsibility before the Ministry of Energy, the General Oil Directorate and its subsidiary institutes, and the executive committees of the people's councils of Fier, Vlore, Berat, and Lushnje districts, for they have still not succeeded in reaching the required turning point.

Despite pledges to make up for backwardness and the increased support that has been given to the chrome industry, this sector has still not fulfilled its tasks and has created deficits. There have been uneven rates of production, cases where reserves have not been ready for use on time, violations of labor discipline, and absenteeism and fluctuations in the labor force in the chrome mines, particularly in Bulqize and Bater. The standard of labor management and organization on the part of the Ministry of Industry and Mines and the executive committees of the people's councils of Diber and Mat districts, despite some improvements, has not been up to the tasks required of them.

Some of the nonfulfillments in some other branches of industry, and the failure of the construction and land reclamation enterprises to complete and commission some production projects on time have their origin in weaknesses and shortcomings, principally in the organization, management, and coordination of duties among production, investment, and foreign trade authorities. There have been no objective factors to justify failures to fulfill tasks in the glass, timber, furniture, and other industries. The food industry, even though agriculture did not deliver its planned quantities of raw materials, could have achieved higher production with greater efforts to exploit its raw materials better and more economically.

Many enterprises have exceeded their quotas in the use of materials, fuel, and electricity. Thirty-one large enterprises alone in different branches of the economy increased their costs by 165 million leks. It is labor and alertness, not liberalism and complacency, creative labor and innovation in exploiting every possible method, not sidelong glances at the state's reserves or imports that overcome difficulties and achieve savings.

This year the export targets of some items that do not involve imported raw materials, such as medicinal herbs and oil-bearing plants, basketwork and handicrafts, engineering industry products, and so forth, were not met because of poor management and direction. For their part, the foreign trade organs, because of the lack of markets, as well as because of inadequate awareness of market opportunities, did not receive delivery of various goods to the value of several million dollars.

The Council of Ministers and its Presidium have analyzed the fulfillment of the tasks of the 1988 Plan in a critical and self-critical spirit, have identified the responsibilities of organizations and individuals, and have taken the necessary measures to improve working methods so that we may embark upon fulfilling the tasks of 1989 as well prepared as possible.

The experience of fulfilling tasks under the conditions of 1988 showed that responsible labor and persistent struggle can overcome difficulties and minimize their negative influence; that with effort and the mobilization of all our energy and strength, relying powerfully on the creative energies of workers, cooperativists and specialists, tasks can be fulfilled and the nation can progress. As the party teaches us, our reserves and opportunities are inexhaustible. We have a single economy, stable in its development; we have skilled, talented, and self-sacrificing working people everywhere; we have advanced experience and increasing material, technical, and scientific resources. Let us use these more fully and effectively to fulfill the plan that we will approve.

II. On the Draft Plan for the Development of the Economy and Culture in 1989

The 1989 draft plan which the Council of Ministers has prepared for the consideration and approval of this session of the People's Assembly has been drawn up on the basis of the directives of the Ninth AWP Congress on the Eighth 5-Year Plan, on the decisions of subsequent plenums, especially the Sixth AWP Central Committee Plenum, and on the valued instructions of Comrade Ramiz Alia. During the discussion of its goals, the working masses in town and countryside made a series of proposals for better mobilizing opportunities and reserves in the economy so that the tasks of the plan would be realistic and easier to guarantee.

Our pace so far and the great tasks we must solve, relying entirely on our own resources and setting the physical and intellectual potential of our people in motion, are also the basis of the main features of the 1989 draft plan.

The levels of production and other targets included in the 1989 draft plan take into consideration the achievements of the first 3 years of the 5-year period and ensure reliance on the necessary material, technical, financial, and currency base for fulfilling the growing needs of the economy and working people. It is planned that the rate of social production, of national income, and financial income will grow 2.4 times faster than the increase in the population. In this way, the draft plan has totally harmonized the needs of today's development with the future of the productive sphere and sociocultural sectors and the requirements presented by the country's demographic development.

The 1989 draft plan provides for a harmonious and correctly proportioned development of the economy. The tasks for production and consumption, for increasing labor productivity and real incomes, and for imports and exports have been laid down according to the demands of the objective economic laws of socialism and the priorities these dictate. The draft plan provides for agriculture and industry, as the two main branches of the economy, to develop faster than other sectors, for national income to rise faster than the social product, for funds for accumulation to rise faster than those for consumption, and for the product for society to rise faster than that for personal use. Enforcing and maintaining these priorities remains a necessary condition for increasing consumption per head of population and for ensuring the accumulation necessary for the expansion of socialist reproduction in future years.

The tasks of the 1989 draft plan presuppose the enforcement of a strict savings regimen in all branches of material production and in social and cultural sectors, turning this movement into a mass action in everybody's daily work. There must be savings in the use of actual labor by raising labor productivity and effectiveness everywhere; these savings are calculated to achieve 50 percent of the planned increase in the social product. Savings are also called for in materialized labor in both the productive and nonproductive sectors, in the use of socialist accumulation, and in expenses in production, construction, services, and so forth. The draft plan anticipates important measures in improving the quality of products, the sparing use of foreign currency funds, and the spread and application of advanced experience.

Next year's tasks are great, but perfectly possible to achieve. They require more skills and culture, more revolutionary zeal and mobilization, refined organization and discipline, and great energy and high productivity because the correct and balanced development of our whole economy now depends to a greater extent on these things. As Comrade Ramiz Alia pointed out at his meetings with working people, communists, and cadres of Sarande, our people and working people, just as they have always correctly understood the great issues of the country's development, must just as fully understand the problems of the economy and the need to fulfill tasks which are tied to our forward march on the road of socialism, relying entirely on our own resources.

In industrial development in 1989, along with fast rates in the production of production equipment, priority has been given to the production of consumer goods. In comparison with 1988, production will rise by 6.8 percent, consumer goods production by 8.8 percent, and the production of production equipment by 6 percent. Increased industrial production will rely principally on the better use of existing productive capacity and on the necessary investments. Priority has been given to investments in chrome and oil, which, in comparison with the 5-year period, will be about 100 million leks higher [as published].

The energy industry will develop at a fast pace. The main feature of the plan for this branch is, first, that oil and gas extraction, in contrast with other years, will rely entirely on existing sources, and, second, that the figures for hydroelectricity production are based on a more accurate assessment of water resources and their more rational use.

In order that oil and gas extraction, which is to rise by 16 percent in comparison with 1988, may proceed as planned, the Council of Ministers has charged the Ministry of Energy, the General Oil Directorate, and their subsidiary institutions with the tasks of keeping the entire stock of active wells in use by increasing the effectiveness of methods of work in the seam, and by introducing new, intensive technological methods. Alongside this, more support is being given to drilling and to the commissioning of new wells according to plan, because these comprise the main factor in compensating for the exhaustion of wells now in use and in further increasing production. The draft plan meanwhile lays down tasks for prospecting for new resources in order to increase our oils and gas reserves.

In 1989 the extraction of such familiar minerals as chrome, copper, and ferronickel will continue to increase, in pursuit of the directives of the Ninth AWP Congress to transform this natural wealth into active productive capacity as soon as possible. In comparison with 1988, chrome extraction will increase by 20 percent, copper by 10 percent, and ferronickel by 2 percent. Achieving these objectives will depend on further intensifying the extraction process in existing mines, and on investments and other projects that will be carried out in opening, preparing, and exploiting some new sites.

During the implementation of the special decisions and tasks involving chrome, this sector will be given priority support with investments, a stronger material and technical base, and so forth. The Council of Ministers will insist that the Ministry of Industry and Mines and the districts of Diber, Mat, and Librazhd increase the responsibility of the cadres and specialists in this sector to guarantee the fulfillment of the tasks of the plan, by intensifying work to increase the reserves ready for exploitation in every individual mine and sector.

In metallurgy, in comparison with 1988, the production of sheet steel will rise by 10 percent, pig iron by 12 percent in all, and carbonic ferrochrome by 4 percent. Kinds of steel whose production has already been mastered will principally be produced in order to give priority to meeting the needs of the engineering industry, mining, and construction. This demands the fuller exploitation of production capacities, the better application of measures involving technological improvements and production parameters, and improvements to the state of repair and maintenance standards of equipment and machinery.

In 1989 the engineering industry will be engaged in producing spare parts, equipment, and machinery on a larger scale. Common consumer goods will record a noticeable increase. In 1989 more stoves and kitchen equipment, irons, bicycles, televisions, and small-scale consumer goods will be produced. The draft plan provides for a better correlation between the production of standard items of machinery and equipment and the spare parts they require, in order to maintain the existing inventory in a state of repair. In this context, the plan provides for the collection and repair of electric motors, transformers, pumps, and mining and agricultural machinery which lie idle because of defects of different kinds. The General Engineering Industry Directorate has been charged with the task of working to meet its export targets better—which have been further raised—by making better use of existing free capacity and using raw materials and income from customers more rationally.

A growth of 10 percent in the chemical industry is planned in comparison with 1988. New kinds of pesticide will be produced for agriculture, and existing production capacity for nitrate fertilizer, detergents, and electrodes will be better exploited. Higher goals are also set for the construction materials, wood processing, and paper industries on the basis of the fuller exploitation of existing production capacity and the better application of technology.

With the better exploitation of existing production capacity and some expansion and reconstruction, light industry, when compared with 1988, will increase its production of textiles, knitwear, socks, ready-made clothes, shoes, common metal and glass consumer goods, and so forth. In order to better meet the people's needs, the Council of Ministers has given the Ministry of Light Industry the task of further improving the structure, quality, and variety of production.

In the food industry, on the basis of the punctual delivery and processing—without wastage—of agricultural raw materials and animal products, and their more effective use, production will rise by 7.2 percent in comparison with 1988. It is anticipated that the production of some high-quality items, such as different kinds of beverages and spirits, oil, confectionery, dairy products, and so forth, will be organized on a larger scale.

The 1989 draft plan sets major tasks for agricultural development, on which the supply of the people with agricultural and animal products, the development of industry and other branches of the economy, and increased foreign currency earnings will depend. The draft plan that is now being presented provides solutions to important problems that emerged from the mass discussions of the draft statutes and the proceedings of the Sixth Agricultural Cooperatives Congress, and the Council of Ministers and ministries have planned measures to implement these. The plan anticipates improvements in crop structure, and the implementation of party directives regarding the northeast region and the priority

intensified zone. Care has been devoted to securing the supply of the peasantry and working people in agricultural enterprises with animal products, vegetables, potatoes, and beans from brigades' small herds and fields, as well as better raw material supplies for industry, and increased exports.

The Council of Ministers will intensify its work with, and place greater demands on, the Ministry of Agriculture and the executive committees of the people's councils in the districts, particularly in order to boost cereal production, which is also the basis for the development of stockraising. Increased production will be achieved entirely through improved cereal yields, especially of corn, for which organic fertilizer must be supplied, and irrigation and field work carried out, on time. By giving priority to cereal crops, the Council of Ministers will not permit any neglect of tobacco, sunflowers, cotton, sugar beet, and soya, which have a major influence on the supply of the people and on the country's foreign currency balance of payments.

In the livestock sector, the main task will be to increase the number of small livestock, and to improve cows' milk yields. The number of cows in small herds will reach 95,000, or 5,000 more than the quota laid down for the 5-year period in 1990. At present, we need to exploit every opportunity and all weather conditions for grazing, to intensify field work in forage crops, and to exert tighter control in using concentrated cereal fodder extremely sparingly.

The draft plan anticipates increased fruit production. Alongside the restocking and reconstruction of orchards, there will be greater care in obtaining yields from young olive trees.

In 1989 general agricultural production will be 16.9 percent higher than in 1988. Although the plan anticipates faster growth rates than previously, the targets that have been set are perfectly feasible. They rely on stable and gradually increasing results in wheat production on a national scale, and on the application of the advanced experience of such districts as Elbasan, which nearly fulfilled its corn plan even in 1988, of Shkoder District, which fulfilled its soya plan, and many districts and agricultural enterprises that increased their milk production to a satisfactory extent. The 1989 plan is also more realistic and feasible because in nine districts and 1-2 agricultural enterprises it has been drawn up on the basis of the greater authority now given to the base in agricultural planning.

The volume of investments in 1989, in comparison with 1988, is planned to rise by 2.2 percent, giving priority to investments in production, which will account for more than 85 percent of investments. The draft plan anticipates that 90 new projects will be completed and commissioned, of which 77 are production projects, and that 47 other projects will be partly inaugurated, including the first furnace of the Elbasan ferrochrome works, the

copper enrichment plant at Mjede in Shkoder District, the Lac sulphuric acid plant, the reconstructed chrome enrichment plants in Bulqize and Kraste, the Berat spinning mill, the mussel processing line in Sarande, various irrigation, sociocultural projects, and so forth.

The Council of Ministers has given investors, the Ministry of Construction, and research and planning bodies the task of increasing their efforts to design quickly and further simplify projects by introducing new design methods, and by using lightweight materials on a larger scale. More care must also be shown in determining building sites and eliminating other subjective failings that were noticed last year.

In freight transportation, the volume of goods is expected to rise by 5.6 percent in tonnes and 4.8 percent in tonne/kilometers. Priority will continue to be given to rail transportation and internal sea and water transportation, especially in the northeast region. Measures have been intensified to rationalize production and distribution, to eliminate bottlenecks, and to encourage bulk transport in order to reduce costs.

In order to carry out their tasks for 1989, the Ministry of Transportation and its subsidiary bodies will concentrate their attention on the volume and speed of transportation movements, on raising indicators of equipment use, increasing the use of trailers, refining labor management, and further mechanizing loading and unloading at stations, seaports, and freight despatch and delivery points.

In implementation of the tasks set by the Sixth AWP Central Committee Plenum, the draft plan anticipates that the export of goods will rise by 19.6 percent, and imports by 11.6 percent. Thus, the active foreign currency balance of payments will be strengthened and the fulfillment of the tasks of the plan will be guaranteed more surely.

In comparison with the plan for the 5-year period as a whole, the export of medicinal herbs, oil-bearing plants, shellfish and other seafoods, snails, and the wood products which are produced by all districts has been increased. Increased exports of other goods such as pig iron, coal, xylene, liquid gas, ready-made clothing made out of the customer's cloth, and so forth are also anticipated.

In the import plan, priority has been given to common consumer goods and raw materials for their production which, in comparison with 1988, will increase by 17.5 percent, and which the producing enterprises will support with planned funds.

Nevertheless, the foreign currency balance for 1989 is very tight. As the Sixth AWP Central Committee Plenum instructed, further increasing production in all sectors by regularly fulfilling plans every day and every month, especially of goods for export, remains the primary duty of state and economic bodies.

The Council of Ministers, alongside the measures it has taken and will take to improve management structures and contractual relationships, to extend the use of material and moral incentives, and so forth, will first of all demand that the administration and production enterprises regularly fulfill delivery plans for export goods. The Ministry for Foreign Trade, for its part, must fulfill its contracts with foreign countries on time, significantly improve its links with and influence on producers, and raise its professional skills and the agility of its working people in responding to every kind of situation, recognizing and exploiting market opportunities in our interest.

The developments to take place in industry, agriculture, and other branches of the economy in 1989 will further raise the prosperity and cultural level of the people. The people's cash incomes, the turnover of goods for cash, and communal services have been harmonized, and guarantee that the people's growing needs will be met and that the lek will maintain its purchasing power. The draft plan not only maintains the level of retail sales per head of population, but plans higher consumption of meat, milk, eggs, potatoes, beans, vegetables, fabrics, shoes, furniture, soap, detergent, and so forth. The retail turnover of goods for cash will rise by 5.7 percent. This requires that producers of common consumer goods ensure rhythmic continuity of production and distribution, so that there should be no concern over supplies to the people or the circulation of money.

Further improvements will be made in the structure of communal services in the fields of repairs and production to order. The construction of water supply systems will be promoted by the mass action to supply 390 villages with water, and 10,000 apartments will be built.

There will be more intensive work in 1989 to further raise standards in education, to invigorate cultural and artistic life, to support the health service with investments, improve its material base, and provide more staff, in order to raise the standard of health and medical services.

The plan for academic work anticipates the completion of several research projects and the solution of certain specific problems in industry, agriculture, and so forth, as well as the accomplishment of certain tasks set by the Sixth AWP Central Committee Plenum to refine the economic mechanism and the level of use of economic levers. In the first 3 months of 1989, study work will be completed which will precede the drafting of the outline of the ninth 5-year period (1991-1995) of the country's socioeconomic development.

Comrade deputies, fulfilling the great and complex tasks of the 1989 Plan will not be easy. On the contrary, it demands, first of all, a correct political understanding of every situation, more labor and effort, more imagination and innovation, discipline, control, accountability, and savings from everybody, everywhere, in everything.

In order to solve problems on time and on a scientific basis, and in order to overcome shortcomings and failings that have been noticed or difficulties that arise in the course of implementing the plan, state and economic bodies, from the Council of Ministers to the base, must further refine management and direction. As Comrade Ramiz Alia has instructed us, specific and effective leadership in labor is now called for from all levels of managerial organization, from the base to the center.

The ministries and the executive committees of people's councils in the districts must react in time and provide specific and practical solutions to problems encountered in production, must eliminate delays that have been noticed in some cases in securing a labor force, and must deal with the fluctuations in the labor force in some enterprises. The financial and banking planning authorities must also increase their active influence in examining and solving the problems raised by the base and the districts, prevent negative phenomena on time, and propose and implement measures that guarantee the pace of expanded socialist reproduction. There must be care in applying measures to manage property well, imposing internal documentation at every level of every enterprise and production and labor unit.

The Council of Ministers will reinforce its demand that management should rely more on the knowledge and use of the economic laws and concepts of socialism, raising the standard of economic thinking and analysis, and more closely harmonizing economic management with administration.

In 1989 fresh impetus will be given to the method of mass action in order to concentrate energies on and give priority to solutions of basic problems of the plan and tasks that are important links for furthering work in other sectors. The example of the national mass actions to discover, open up, prepare, and exploit the rich chrome reserves at Pojske, to construct the ferrochrome factory at Elbasan, the olive groves, and so forth will inspire all the working collectives of our country. In this context, we will combat alien practices and behavior that encourage randomness, an over-general approach, one-sidedness, self-exculpation, lack of initiative, bureaucracy, an office-bound mentality, and parochialism.

The Council of Ministers considers fulfilling export tasks and improving export efficiency to be the main axis on which the total fulfillment of the 1989 Plan in all branches of the economy depends. We will struggle to carry out our tasks in boosting production, expanding the range of articles for export, significantly improving their quality, and selling them at the best prices, thus improving the country's foreign currency earnings.

There are opportunities for exports in every district, not only in traditional export articles and agricultural products, but also in medicinal herbs and oil-bearing plants,

and in both wild and cultivated vegetation, which all require particular attention. Alongside this, we will increase efforts to tighten the savings regimen in both export and import goods by imposing scientifically-based technical norms for their use, finding ways and opportunities to replace imported with domestic goods, further increasing exports, and so forth.

For 1989, besides the attention that must be paid to such key sectors of the economy as oil, gas, chrome, and so forth, agriculture remains the main link. In order to eliminate the significant deficits created in agriculture, especially in the last 2 years, the Council of Ministers has issued particular instructions for the fulfillment, first of all, of targets in cereals. The agricultural authorities should have at the focus of their attention the improvement of the structure of field crops, aiming at higher production from every hectare of cultivated land, and the development of stockraising by improving the fodder supply, the improvement of fruit-growing to bring it out of backwardness, and so forth. For this, we require that agriculture be given strong and priority support from every sector of the economy, especially those that produce chemical fertilizer, fuel, machinery and spare parts, those involved in increasing irrigation capacity, in delivering and processing agricultural and animal products, and so forth.

In order to fulfill the 1989 Plan, the Council of Ministers will examine with care problems relating to the further refinement of socialist relations in production and those that pave the way for the development of production at a faster pace. In agriculture, we will program and carry out the tasks set by the Sixth Agricultural Cooperatives Congress for consolidating property and further improving relations between the state and the agricultural cooperatives and the relations of exchange between them, as well as for introducing forms of remuneration for labor that stimulate working people's interest and efforts to exceed the plan, improve the quality of production, and so forth.

Measures will also be taken to improve economic management in enterprises, especially in its constituent links; to refine planning methods, prices and wages, and thus as a whole to improve the effective use of economic levers and encourage people to the greatest possible creativity and innovation.

1989 is the jubilee year of the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the homeland. All our working people, under the party's leadership, will increase their energies and mobilization in labor in order to arrive at this celebration with their tasks fulfilled. The Council of Ministers, and especially the People's Assembly, will place higher demands for the responsibility of state and economic bodies and will multiply their energies in carrying out the tasks of the Ninth AWP Congress and the valued instructions of Comrade Ramiz Alia for the development of the economy and culture at a fast rate.

Comrade deputies, I invite you to approve the main goals of the economic and cultural development of the homeland in 1989!

Balev Speaks at Cuban Anniversary Event
AU0901151189 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 6 Jan 89 p 6

[Report on speech by Milko Balev, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and BCP Central Committee secretary, at 5 January Sofia public meeting marking the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution]

[Text] Today, from the position of the modern world's new realities, we can grasp better and more fully the essence, characteristics, and historical significance of the Cuban revolution, said Milko Balev, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, in his speech. It became a charming example of vitality and revolutionary youth, and radiated a unique revolutionary romanticism that penetrated the hearts of all those who cherish the revolution's heroic cause.

The Cuban example proved the great importance of the revolution in a relatively small country, and how it can attract the sympathy of the world public.

In his speech, Milko Balev devoted much space to the external and domestic conditions in which the young socialist state developed and strengthened.

Now, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), the main efforts are aimed at improving the economic mechanism, increasing labor productivity, improving production quality, and increasing economic profitability. The Third PCC Congress, that took place in 1986, set new and higher goals related to the country's accelerated economic and social development. The program that was adopted by the congress determined the most important trends and tasks related to constructing socialism at the present stage.

Cuba's foreign policy course after the victory of the revolution contributed to its deservedly high authority in the international arena. This is clearly reflected in the fact that today Cuba maintains diplomatic relations with 128 states. It cooperates in a fruitful and comprehensive manner with the USSR and the other socialist countries. Its principled and consistent activity in the Nonaligned Countries Movement enjoys the support of all progressive and peace-loving countries throughout the world. Today, in the process of settling the situation in southwest Africa, socialist Cuba has again confirmed its loyalty to its international duty. Its principled and realistic policy has contributed to the success of the recent quadripartite talks in Brazzaville.

Today, the speaker continued, from the position of the modern world's new realities, we can better and more fully understand the tendencies in international relations, and we—Bulgarians and Cubans—can take part in the world processes as nations.

The signing of the INF Treaty was the greatest event of the last 2 years. It has great historical importance and has become the symbol of the turning point in international relations. We are witnesses of the transition from confrontation to dialogue in USSR-U. S. relations. Encouraging steps toward peacefully solving regional conflicts are evident, and fraternal Cuba made a worthy contribution in this area. The new flexible, consistent, and energetically conducted policy of the Soviet leadership and Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev personally, as well as the active and peaceful advance of the socialist countries are basic factors in creating the present situation in Europe and the world.

Today we understand better and more fully the meaning of friendship and cooperation between our parties and countries, Comrade Milko Balev said in conclusion. Our first contacts were already marked by close and sincere friendship. Remarkable cooperation developed between the Bulgarian and Cuban nations. The meetings between the first leaders of our parties and countries, Comrades Fidel Castro and Todor Zhivkov, are the apex of these relations. Their personal friendship and warm and cordial relations, that accompany each and every one of their meetings and talks, are the supreme expression of the Bulgarian-Cuban fraternity and internationalism, that inspire our hearts with new stimuli and the real self-esteem of socialist nations.

Filipov's Havana Visit Ends 6 January
AU0901150289 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 7 Jan 89 p 5

[Unsigned BTA correspondent's report from Havana: "Intensification of Cooperation"]

[Text] Havana, 6 January—The visit of a Bulgarian party and government delegation, headed by Grisha Filipov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and BCP Central Committee secretary, which attended the celebrations on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution, ended today.

During the meetings and talks which the Bulgarian delegation held with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, and with other party and state leaders of this country, information was exchanged on the main tasks which the two Communist Parties are coping with at the present stage of developing socialist society. Questions related to the further development and intensification of comprehensive Bulgarian - Cuban cooperation in accordance with the requirements of the new realities that exist in our contemporary world were also discussed.

Pact Naval Disarmament Proposals Reviewed
AU0501170789 Sofia ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME
in Bulgarian 4 Jan 89 p 4

[Article by Major General Kamen Petrov: "For Strengthening Security and Confidence"]

[Text] The Warsaw Pact states are persistently campaigning to halt the arms race, including that in the naval field.

They base their position on the understanding that this problem is increasingly becoming one of the priority directions for the efforts of the whole of mankind. The successful solution of this problem would make a considerable contribution to preventing war, to strengthening stability both on a global scale and within individual regions, and to increasing the security of navigation in the world's seas, as well as to developing research on marine resources and drawing up projects in this sphere. It is necessary to eliminate the premise under which agreed types of arms are reduced in some fields, while in other fields the development of the arms race is permitted.

In his remarkable speech at the UN General Assembly in December last year, Mikhail Gorbachev once again stressed that none of the problems of the coming century can be solved unless we make a determined start on the road to disarmament.

It should be emphasized that the People's Republic of Bulgaria is making a worthy contribution to the socialist countries' common efforts to establish control over naval weapons and activities.

The declaration of the Warsaw Pact states adopted in the Polish capital in May 1980 proposed that, in the interest of peace and stability and of ensuring the reliability and unhindered use of the most important international communications, a start should be made on examining, for example within the framework of the United Nations, the issue of limiting and reducing the level of military presence and military activities in the relevant regions, whether in the Atlantic, Indian, or Pacific Oceans, the Mediterranean, or the Persian Gulf.

The following was proposed with regard to the Mediterranean region:

- to disseminate the confidence measures specified in the Helsinki Final Act;
- to reduce the armed forces in the Mediterranean;
- to withdraw from the Mediterranean ships carrying nuclear arms; and
- not to place such weapons on the territory of the Mediterranean nonnuclear states.

In 1987 Bulgaria, the GDR, and CSSR submitted a working document on halting the escalation of naval arms to the UN Disarmament Commission.

The efforts of the socialist countries, including the active role of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, demonstrate the importance of combining measures of a regional character with measures including a more global range of action, aimed at reducing military activity and achieving disarmament in the seas of the world.

At the consultations of the 23 countries in Vienna on drafting a mandate for future negotiations on reducing armed forces and conventional arms in Europe, in response to the insistence of the NATO countries, the Warsaw Pact states agreed for it to be recorded in the mandate that nuclear weapons, naval forces, and chemical arms would not form issues for examination.

Our position is that we can make a start on measures for building confidence in the naval field. The socialist countries have always based their position on the understanding that there is an organic interrelationship between the confidence- and security-building measures and the efforts to reduce troops and arms.

The second stage of the Conference on Confidence - Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe ("Stockholm-2") should contribute to the drafting and adoption of a new generation of measures that, in the final analysis, will encompass all forms of armed forces, including the naval forces of the states taking part in the CSCE.

The confidence measures in the naval field may include prior notification of maneuvers and the transfer of naval and associated air forces; limiting the numbers, scale, and regions for organizing and holding exercises; inviting observers; and exchanging information.

In order to strengthen confidence, it would be useful to compare information on naval potentials, discuss concepts concerning the use of naval forces in combat, and compare the goals of naval exercises.

It is expedient to discuss the issues regarding creating, in the regions of the main international oceanic and sea routes, zones of increased confidence with a decreased concentration of arms, and withdrawing offensive forces and weapons from these regions.

The inclusion of the problems of arms reduction and limiting naval forces' activity in the all-European process for strengthening confidence and security would contribute to forming an all-embracing system of international peace and security and to creating a more favorable world climate.

Zhivkov Congratulates Hungarian President
AU0901140889 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 5 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council, sent a telegram to Bruno Straub, president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic:

Esteemed Comrade Straub, on behalf of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and on my own behalf, I would like most sincerely to congratulate you on the occasion of your 75th birthday.

I am convinced that the traditional relations of fraternal friendship and cooperation between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Hungarian People's Republic will be pursued in the future and will be intensified to the benefit and for the prosperity of our two peoples.

I take advantage of this opportunity, esteemed Comrade Straub, in order to wish you vigorous health, personal happiness, and further successes in your highly responsible work as president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Leaders Pay Condolence Visit to Japanese Embassy
AU1001140889 Sofia BTA in English
1344 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Sofia, January 10 (BTA)—Mr. Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Mr. Petur Tanchev, vice president of the State Council, today paid a visit to the Embassy of Japan in Sofia.

On behalf of the State Council and the Government of Bulgaria, they presented their sincere condolences over the demise of Japanese Emperor Hirohito and put their signatures in the condolences book.

Deep sympathy was extended to Emperor Akihito, the Emperor's family, the Government of Japan and the Japanese people through Mr. Masami Tanida, ambassador of Japan.

Members of the government, representatives of the business circles, artists and cultural figures also offered their condolences.

Turkey's Smuggling Accusations Refuted
AU0901142789 Sofia OTECHSTVEN FRONT
in Bulgarian 6 Jan 89 p 5

[Aleksi Krustev article: "Who Needs This New Fabrication?"]

[Excerpts] Everyone could ask, who needs this precisely now, when each opportunity of improving Bulgarian-Turkish relations must be utilized? Let us recall the absurd slanders about the Bulgarian connection after the attack on Pope Paul John II. At that time the Turkish press completely forgot the proper tone of good-neighborly relations and invented all kinds of lies about that connection, including the one about the Bulgarian Government ostensibly sponsoring the trafficking of smuggled weapons, drugs, and so forth. All this collapsed because it was not true and because, as was repeatedly stressed by official circles, our socialist country has never engaged in such inhumane activity.

Has the Turkish press completely forgotten this lesson of our most recent history and thus again started to publish articles containing groundless insinuations, indeed accusations, against our country? The daily MILLIYET of 18 December carries an interview with Mr Kemal Tedzirlioglu, head of the Intelligence-Operational Administration on the Struggle Against Smuggling within the Turkish Main Security Directorate. The journalist Yodzan Erdzan, who interviewed Tedzirlioglu, used the following subslug: "Tedzirlioglu speaks about a 'certain neighboring country,'" whose name he did not specify. However, there is hardly anybody who does not know that the neighboring country is Bulgaria. It has been established that transferring money from Turkey to Switzerland, exchanging it for gold, and returning it to Turkey, has been done under the protection of the Bulgarian Government." [quotation marks as published]

Even the most unbiased reader understands that a well-known trick of the yellow press' arsenal is being used. The official spokesman ostensibly keeps silent about something he knows. However, the journalist is trying to interpret his statement in an attempt to reveal the "truth" and present it in a credible form. The result is an inadmissible accusation, not against an individual, but against a government which, as is known, has always done everything necessary to improve relations with the Balkan countries, and especially with Turkey. This especially applies under the conditions of the new political thinking. [passage omitted]

I repeat verbatim and without abbreviations the part of the interview dealing with the "certain neighboring country" in order to show that it does not contain the most important element in every accusation—the evidence. There are no facts, names, or specific cases. It mentions the "guarantee of that neighboring country." It also mentions "money accumulated in Turkey, which could not be transferred legally and therefore had to be transferred through the 'certain neighboring country'." Finally, it states that the "certain neighboring country" is collecting a fixed percentage as a commission from the smugglers! Ostensibly, all this is taking place with the knowledge of the government of the "certain neighboring country," and so forth. To confirm all this the interview cites as evidence the fact that "such statements have been made during the investigations we have conducted," and that "... we know that they patronize all this in exchange for a certain commission, and that they place the gold in vehicles which afterward travel to Turkey for various reasons."

However, there is another truth—one that is well-known, but naturally ignored by the Turkish press. Bulgaria, as mentioned by all international customs documents, is a country that acts as a solid barrier against smuggling of all kinds. This especially applies to the smuggling of drugs and weapons. As far as the legal transfer of foreign currency assets, including gold jewelry, is concerned, there are specific principles of transit transfer—a declaration has to

be filled out, obliging the person who transfers the valuables to export from Bulgarian territory everything he had imported. More specifically, in cases in which the transfer of a substantial quantity of gold (and other valuables) is involved, there is a special procedure, used by many countries, according to which the entire transfer takes place under customs control. This guarantees the safe and precise transfer from one border checkpoint to another, something that is in the interest of both the traveler, who has a guarantee that he will receive his valuables intact, and the country, which is protected against an illegal transfer through its territory.

Naturally, if the established regulations have not been observed, the smuggled valuables, regardless of their nature, are confiscated, and the violators are prosecuted.

When I asked Nikolay Nikolov, head of the "Customs" Administration at the Ministry of Economy and Planning, whether there has ever been a case of a Bulgarian being involved—in Bulgaria or abroad—in the smuggling of drugs, weapons, or other goods that are banned because of humanitarian considerations, his answer was categorical: "There is no such case." At the same time, I was presented with an entire list of Turkish citizens who had been involved in drug smuggling. I selected several more drastic examples from this list. [passage omitted]

I shall stop here and ask why connections are being sought where they do not exist and not where they really are? Why do the Turkish customs authorities not also become a solid barrier to the smuggling of goods that are completely banned by all customs authorities throughout the world, as well as other goods? Why do not they exercise sufficient control after it has been established that Turkish citizens are apparently the most frequent violators of the customs regulations in question, as mentioned in the *MILLIYET* interview? Why in the name of good-neighborly relations are they not searching for new ways of stopping smuggling of all kinds?

I shall ask again, who needs such dirty insinuations about some "Bulgarian connection," this time related to illegal speculation with gold?

Vladimir Zhivkov Received by Indian President
AU0701192889 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
1830 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Ramaswamy Venkataraman, president of India, today received in Delhi Vladimir Zhivkov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Culture and leader of the Bulgarian delegation for the Days of Bulgarian Culture in India. Vladimir Zhivkov conveyed to him special greetings from State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov.

Ramaswamy Venkataraman expressed thanks for the message of good wishes, and made a high assessment of the state of relations between the two countries in the fields of politics, economics, and culture.

Bulgaria, the president pointed out, is one of the countries closest to India. It was one of the first states to support the initiative of the "Delhi Six" for peace and disarmament in the world. I am convinced, said Ramaswamy Venkataraman, that wide possibilities exist for further developing and strengthening the warm friendly relations, to which end the successful holding of the Days of Bulgarian Culture in India will contribute.

The leader of the Bulgarian delegation expressed thanks for the cordial reception and the excellent organization under which the Days of Bulgarian Culture were being held, and voiced confidence that the event would provide a fresh impetus for the development of contacts in the intellectual sphere between the two friendly peoples.

Government Discusses Plan Implementation
AU0901192389 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
1830 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] A meeting devoted to tasks related to implementing the plan for the country's socioeconomic and scientific-technical development in 1989 took place at the Council of Ministers. It was attended by members of the Council of Ministers; chairmen of executive committees of the oblast people's councils; chairmen of associations; deputy ministers; leaders of economic trusts and agro-industrial complexes; trade union figures; and representatives of the mass media.

Stoyan Ovcharov, minister of economy and planning, read a report. He pointed out that the main task now is to reach a turning point in putting the July Concept into effect in the economy. Specific and practical activity is to be developed in every unit of the national economy, in accordance with the new premises and requirements, ensuing from the decisions of the BCP Central Committee December 1988 Plenum. It is necessary to dynamically apply the new approaches inspired by Comrade Todor Zhivkov's elaborations, and turn them into a guiding principle for our work in accelerating restructuring in Bulgaria.

Minister Stoyan Ovcharov reviewed a circle of issues, which must focus our attention on putting the plan into practice, such as the structural and technological restructuring; ensuring and efficiently using energy and raw material resources; issues related to the investment process; the necessity of supplying the population with goods and services; implementing the foreign currency tasks, and so forth.

Special attention was devoted to developing the company-based organization in national economy, for which the necessary conditions have been created by the Decree on Economic Activity and the regulations on its application. A high level of discipline was pointed out as an important condition for implementing the plan and introducing the company-based organization.

Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, read the concluding speech. He stressed that the conditions of restructuring in our country demand a new organization and a new way to organize work in order to achieve a qualitatively new level of managing the national economy.

Leaders Attend State Council Economic Session
AU0501141389 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 4 Jan 89 p 1

[BTA report: "At the State Council: Guarantees For Company-Based Organization"]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria took place on 3 January. The meeting, which was chaired by Comrade Todor Zhivkov, reviewed the draft decree on economic activity introduced by the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended by the members of the State Council and by Comrades Georgi Atanasov, Dimitur Stoyanov, Grigor Stoichkov, Petko Danchev, Stoyan Ovcharov, and Vasil Tzanov.

Leaders' Public Appearances for 28 Dec-6 Jan

AU0601180889 [Editorial Report] Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian in its newcasts, the Sofia press, and Sofia BTA in English during the 30 December - 6 January monitoring period report the following public appearances of Bulgarian leaders (sourceline of each report given in parentheses):

The following leaders attended a meeting of the State Council in Sofia on 3 January on economic matters: Georgi Atanasov, Petko Danchev, Stoyan Ovcharov, Grigor Stoichkov, Dimitur Stoyanov, Vasil Tzanov, and Todor Zhivkov, who chaired the meeting. (Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 4 Jan 89 p 1)

The following leaders attended a reception given in Sofia on 5 January by the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to mark Cambodia's national day: Petko Danchev, Dimitur Stanishev, and Dimitur Stoyanov. (Sofia Domestic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 89)

Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, held his traditional New Year meeting in Sofia on 2 January with chiefs of foreign diplomatic missions in Bulgaria. (BTA 1525 GMT 2 Jan 89)

Milko Balev, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, spoke in Sofia on 5 January at a festive meeting to mark the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. (Sofia Domestic 1830 GMT 5 Jan 89)

Army General Dobri Dzhurov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense, and the leadership of the Ministry of National Defense held their traditional annual meeting with cultural figures in Sofia on 28 December. (Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 29 Dec 88 pp 1, 3)

Petur Mladenov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, left Sofia on 6 January for Paris to attend the international conference on chemical weapons. (Sofia Domestic 0900 GMT 6 Jan 89)

Emil Khristov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, left Sofia on 2 January for Phnom Penh with a party and government delegation. (Sofia Domestic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 89)

More on Semtex Connection in Pan Am Tragedy

Foreign Ministry Rejects Link

AU0901173189 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
31 Dec 88 p 2

[CTK report: "Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry Declares"]

[Text] Prague—The Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman made the following statement about information carried by certain British and other communications media, which linked the Pan American aircraft crash in Scotland with unconfirmed speculation about the possibility that Semtex, an industrial explosive of Czechoslovak make, had been used:

The CSSR stresses again that it categorically condemns all acts, forms, and methods of terrorism and that it is consistently adhering to the international commitments. It has never delivered, nor is it now delivering, explosives to terrorist organizations. We are also prepared to dispatch Czechoslovak experts at any time to give an expert opinion, should this help identify the explosive which was used.

UK Media Denounced

AU0901145889 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
6 Jan 89 p 7

[Zdenek Vilimek London dispatch: "A Peculiar Campaign; Anti-Czechoslovak Statements in the British Press"]

[Text] London (from our correspondent)—Some British newspapers have launched an anti-Czechoslovak campaign in connection with the crash of the U.S. Pan American Boeing 747 airliner in southwestern Scotland. Right-wing newspapers, in particular, often repeat a contention alleging that the explosion that destroyed the plane and resulted in the death of 270 people was caused by an explosive manufactured in Czechoslovakia called Semtex. To say the least, the authors of these articles are jumping ahead of the outcome of the official inquiry into the causes of the tragedy.

Neither the perpetrator of the bomb attack nor the origin and the brand of the explosive are in fact known. The only thing that has been announced so far by the leadership of the large group of investigators is that traces of an explosion were found on two parts of the metal pallet in the baggage area.

The British Foreign Office announced that Czechoslovakia had offered to send a Czechoslovak specialist to help the investigating British experts verify the type and origin of the explosive used in the attack. The relevant British authorities have assessed this Czechoslovak initiative positively. Even the right-wing newspaper THE TIMES said that this Czechoslovak expertise would be

an important step in East-West cooperation in combating international terrorism. Nonetheless, even after this offer the anti-Czechoslovak campaign has not stopped, and it continues.

For years efforts have been made in Great Britain to level charges against Czechoslovakia in connection with the explosive Semtex. According to claims by the British Government and the British press, some time ago this explosive got into the hands of members of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which is conducting an unscrupulous and very bloody terrorist campaign to bring about the unification of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. As Tom King, secretary of state for Northern Ireland, told me personally at the beginning of December, the British Government does not believe that Czechoslovakia supplies this explosive to the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

In defiance of this, some newspapers are trying to turn Semtex into the central issue of British-Czechoslovak relations. Remarks about this explosive even figure in articles on the Pardubice Grand Prix steeplechase or on appearances by Czechoslovak sports teams in Great Britain. In raising such charges, the authors forget one basic fact—that it is not Czechoslovakia that is the world's third largest exporter of weapons, but Great Britain.

Discussed With UK Charge

AU0901160489 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
7 Jan 89 pp 1, 7

["CTK, zr"-signed report: "Proposal for a Joint Czechoslovak-British Initiative"]

[Text] Prague—John Malcolm MacGregor, charge d'affaires ad interim of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was received at the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday, 6 January 1989, in connection with the anti-Czechoslovak campaign based on a completely groundless contention alleging that the Pan Am airliner crashed as a result of the use of the Czechoslovak-made Semtex explosive.

It was stressed again to the British diplomat that the CSSR unequivocally opposes all forms of terrorism and has never supplied arms, explosives, or other materials to any terrorist organization.

He was also told that, in an endeavor to contribute to disarmament and to the creation of an atmosphere of trust and cooperation in Europe, Czechoslovakia fully identifies with the appeal of Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, made at the United Nations on 27 September 1988, concerning the Soviet Union's support for the idea of introducing into the organization a system to maintain records of sales and deliveries of conventional weapons. The implementation of this proposal would undoubtedly also facilitate control over international terrorism. Guided by the

endeavor to assist in the international efforts to combat terrorism, Czechoslovakia proposes to Great Britain the launching of a joint initiative aimed at holding talks among experts within the framework of the United Nations, involving all manufacturers of plastic explosives. These talks should result in the conclusion of an international convention on the principles of the designation and detection of plastic explosives, including the commitment by all manufacturers of plastic explosives to report to the United Nations deliveries and buyers of these substances on an annual basis.

Regarding the proposal of the Czechoslovak side to send experts who would help on the spot to identify the explosives which caused the tragedy of the Pan Am airliner over Scotland, John Malcolm MacGregor, charge d'affaires ad interim, said that the British Government had accepted this offer. A group of Czechoslovak experts will leave for Great Britain in the next few days.

As is said in a statement on the reception, the British representative was also once again urgently requested to help clarify the suspicious circumstances of the disappearance of Czechoslovak diplomat Vlastimil Ludvik from India. According to an announcement by the British Foreign Office, the Czechoslovak diplomat is now on British territory. The REUTER agency has meanwhile reported that former Czechoslovak diplomat Vlastimil Ludvik, who has been granted political asylum in Great Britain, has turned down the Czechoslovak authorities' request for a meeting. This was announced by the British Foreign Office on Friday [6 January]. The Foreign Office refuses to provide information on when Ludvik arrived in Great Britain, what prompted him to defect, and exactly where he is staying.

Reader's Question Answered

AU0901173589 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
7 Jan 89 p 2

["red" - signed article in the "In Reply to a Reader's Question" column: "Semtex"]

[Text] A reader has sent us the following question: "The Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA reported that the commission that investigated the attack on the PAN AM airliner over Scotland reached the unequivocal conclusion that a 'Semtex' plastic bomb had been used and that it is a Czechoslovak product, manufactured at Semtin. In other words, we, Czechoslovakia, produce it, while speaking for decades about the struggle for peace. When shall we read about it in RUDE PRAVO?"

RUDE PRAVO readers can convince themselves that our newspaper has not only written about the CSSR-manufactured explosive "Semtex", but also about the fact that this explosive is being linked with the disaster of the aforesaid U.S. airliner. The explosive has been mentioned, inter alia, in a statement by the spokesman for

the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs (RP 31 December), in the commentary "On the Tragedy Over Scotland" (RP 5 January), and in our daily reports. The very name of the explosive testifies to the place of its origin—Semtin. It is an industrial explosive used in various types of earthwork, chiefly in mining and in construction. We would like to draw our reader's attention to the fact that Czechoslovakia is not the only country to use and produce an explosive of this type because, evidently, economic activity will never make do without it. Nor is Czechoslovakia the only country to export explosives for industrial use. Exporters of explosives also include some NATO countries, as well as other states.

The production of industrial explosives is not, by the way, inconsistent with our efforts in the struggle for peace. Our authorities have made it absolutely clear that Czechoslovakia has never supplied, does not supply, and will never supply explosives to any terrorist organization in the world. Our country has never had anything in common with support for terrorism. It goes without saying that this is the "a" and "z" of our domestic and foreign policy.

As we write elsewhere today in the report on the reception of a British diplomat at the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czechoslovak experts are ready to help identify the explosive which destroyed the U.S. plane. The CSSR is also ready to take other international steps, such as a joint Czechoslovak-British initiative in the United Nations concerning essential joint measures by all countries in the world that manufacture explosives of the Semtex type.

Spokesman Comments on Libyan Denial of Plant

AU0901134589 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
29 Dec 88 p 7

[CTK report: "Proposal To Inspect Facilities in Libya"]

[Text] Moscow—This Wednesday [28 December] Genadiy Gerasimov, spokesman of the USSR Foreign Ministry, spoke in Moscow in favor of an inspection of the production facility in Libya which, as the United States claims, is capable of producing chemical weapons.

A few days ago Washington expressed its concern about the production program of a plant in Libya, which the United States claims is capable of producing, or is in fact already producing, chemical weapons.

Gerasimov stated that "it is easy to dispel all suspicion by inviting a group of journalists or experts to inspect the Libyan plant."

Prague—A declaration rejecting the U.S. claim was presented on the premises of the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs this Wednesday [28 December] on behalf of the heads of the representative offices of Arab countries in Prague by Muhammad Misbah Khalifah, leading

secretary of the People's Committee of Libya; Abdelhamid Latreche, ambassador of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; Nouredin Boujallabi, ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia; and Musa Sulayman al-Musa al-Sayf, ambassador of the State of Kuwait. At the same time the Libyan representative stated that, after completion, the plant which the American side claims is now producing poisonous chemical substances will produce medical drugs.

Ivan Kulhanek, spokesman of the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated in this connection that both the use of force and the threat to use force are inadmissible in international relations, and contradict the current endeavor to improve the international atmosphere.

Ministry Statement on Downing of Libyan Aircraft
AU1001091389 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
6 Jan 89 p 1

[CTK report: "On the Incident in the Mediterranean"]

[Text] Prague—Ivan Kulhanek, spokesman for the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued the following statement on Thursday [5 January]: The CSSR condemns the downing of two Libyan aircraft by U.S. military forces over the international waters of the Mediterranean on 4 January 1989. This act, which is a breach of the basic principles of international law, runs sharply counter to the positive tendencies in the development of international relations and poses a threat to the situation in the Mediterranean in the Middle East region.

U.S. Embassy Gives 'Instructions' to Contras
AU0901152889 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
29 Dec 88 p 7

[Vera Posledni commentary in the "Notes" column: "Words Contradict Deeds"]

[Text] In an interview for the Nicaraguan paper BAR-RICADA, the former commander of the counterrevolutionaries, Horacio Arce Ruiz, declared that, although the U.S. Congress had frozen all arms deliveries to the Nicaraguan contras in August 1988, these weapons are already lying in storage in Honduras. He also said that the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa is providing the counterrevolutionaries with data on the deployment of Nicaraguan Army units and issuing them instructions on which facilities in Nicaragua they should attack.

At the very time when efforts to resolve all regional conflicts through negotiations are strengthening throughout the world, the current American policy toward Central America, and particularly Nicaragua, is increasingly becoming an anachronism. Staking everything on strength, dictating from the positions of strength, financing a fratricidal war, supporting terrorism—all this has brought the United States nothing but condemnation.

Even a number of American politicians have said that R. Reagan's claim that Nicaragua represents an extremely serious threat to U.S. national security is absurd.

There was a time when State Secretary Schultz declared that, should the Nicaraguan Government conduct negotiations with the counterrevolutionaries, the United States would also be prepared to reopen the dialogue with Managua. However, when the government in Managua did start a dialogue with the contras, it was precisely the United States which undertook every conceivable effort to frustrate it. Similarly, U.S. allies in El Salvador and Honduras are striving to block progress in the realization of the Guatemala peace agreements for Central America. At the very time when President Reagan is about to conclude his term of office, new weapons are being prepared for a continuation of this hopeless policy.

One is waiting to see whether the new U.S. Government, headed by G. Bush, will take the new realities into account and adopt a more realistic stand both on Nicaragua and on Central America. Every prerequisite for this is provided for by the declared goodwill of the Nicaraguan Government to achieve peace—reiterated on many occasions—and by its readiness to reopen the dialogue on the settling of mutual relations with the United States.

CSSR Diplomat's Defection Reported
AU1001091389 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
4 Jan 89 p 7

["zr"-signed report in the "24 Hours Abroad" column: "Czechoslovak Diplomat Turns Emigre"]

[Text] The British Foreign Office announced on Tuesday [3 January] that former Czechoslovak diplomat Vlastimil Ludvik, who disappeared from the Czechoslovak representative office in New Delhi 2 weeks ago, had arrived in London and been granted political asylum there.

Adamec, FRG's Mischnick Meet
LD0901230989 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak
1730 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Federal Premier Ladislav Adamec received today in Prague Wolfgang Mischnick, the FDP parliamentary group leader in the Bundestag, who is visiting Czechoslovakia.

Ladislav Adamec informed him about the CSSR's interest in developing specific mutual cooperation.

Wolfgang Mischnick praised the initiative to convene a working conference of the premiers of the states neighboring Czechoslovakia to discuss ecological questions.

CPCZ, Indian Marxists Sign Agreement
AU0901123389 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
29 Dec 88 p 1

[CTK report: "Agreement Between CPCZ and Communist Party of India-Marxist"]

[Text] Tiruvananthapuram—Rudolf Hegenbart, head of CPCZ delegation to the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M], and Surjit Singh, CPI-M Central Committee Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, signed an agreement on cooperation between the two Communist Parties in the capital of Kerala, in southern India, on Wednesday [28 December].

The agreement concerns the exchange of experience acquired in party work and in the common struggle for disarmament and social progress.

R. Hegenbart and Surjit Singh also exchanged views on the activities of the two Communist Parties and expressed high appreciation of the results achieved in their cooperation to date.

Sadovsky Receives Albanian Charge d'Affaires
AU0901122989 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
23 Dec 88 p 2

[CTK report in the "Brief Information" column]

[Excerpt] Pavel Sadovsky, CSSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, received Idriz Dhrami, charge d'affaires of the People's Socialist republic of Albania, in Prague yesterday [22 December]. The two representatives assessed the present state of and the prospects for the further development of Czechoslovak - Albanian relations. [passage omitted]

Opposition Groups To Defy Demonstration Ban
AU0901143789 Paris AFP in English
1433 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Prague, Jan 9 (AFP)—Five Czechoslovak opposition groups have announced they would defy a demonstration ban next Sunday to commemorate the death of student Jan Palach who set fire to himself 20 years' ago to protest Warsaw Pact intervention in his country.

A "brief meeting" will be held downtown at the site where a the 20-year-old student set himself alight on January 16, 1969 to protest the crushing of a brief period of liberalisation dubbed the Prague Spring, the groups said.

Jan Palach died three days later in hospital.

They also announced plans to hold a "pilgrimage" on January 21 to Palach's grave in his hometown, Vsetaty, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of here.

Czechoslovak authorities in 1970 ordered the student's remains moved to Vsetaty in an attempt to prevent the Prague cemetery where he was initially buried from becoming a pilgrimage site. But candles and flowers are still laid at the empty grave here regularly.

The groups calling the demonstrations are the human rights organization Charter 77, the Independent Pacifist Association, the Association of Friends of the United States, the so-called anti-conformist group Children of Bohemia and the John Lennon Pacifist Club.

Police Arrest Dissident Vaclav Havel
AU1001074389 Paris AFP in English
2204 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Prague, Jan 9 (AFP)— Police arrested leading dissident Vaclav Havel on Monday night after he appealed to try to stop an unknown person from burning himself alive as a student did 20 years ago, his friends said.

Mr. Havel issued the public appeal after he received a letter threatening that "a human torch will again burn on January 15, 1989, in Saint Wenceslas Square."

Student Jan Palach set himself ablaze 20 years ago next Sunday to protest Warsaw Pact intervention in Czechoslovakia, crushing a brief period of liberalisation dubbed the Prague Spring.

Mr. Havel, a playwright and a leader of the Charter 77 human rights group, said he and Charter 77 official Dana Nemcova received the warning letter. It was signed "Torch Number One", the same signature used by Jan Palach in a letter explaining his self-sacrifice.

Mr. Havel said the letter, from the previously-unknown Committee for the Organisation of Group Suicides, warned that "a certain number of students have decided to support, with acts, Charter 77's worthy work, to commit themselves to the recognition of political rights".

Mr. Havel said he believed the letter came "probably from an isolated man, not a group". However, it appeared "authentic" and should be "taken seriously".

Urbanek Speaks on Restructuring
LD0701202689 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1700 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] A CPCZ delegation led by [CPCZ Presidium member] Karel Urbanek has visited the town of Dietzenbach [FRG].

In his speech Karel Urbanek pointed out that Czechoslovak society as well as the CPCZ are intent on restructuring our economic and public life these days. He

stressed that restructuring offers the Czechoslovak people a unique opportunity to show the real possibilities and potential of socialism. It is obvious, though, that it will not be a simple process that can be carried out quickly.

He went on to note that, along with restructuring our economic mechanism, Czechoslovakia at the same time is carrying out the process of democratisation.

In his speech, Karel Urbanek also expressed support for the package of peace initiatives delivered by Mikhail Gorbachev at the United Nations, and stressed that Czechoslovakia is determined to contribute fully to the process of implementing them.

Fojtik Addresses Media Meeting

AU0901123289 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
29 Dec 88 p 2

[CTK report: "Responsibilities of Journalists; Comrade Jan Fojtik Addressed the Traditional Meeting"]

[Text] Prague—The Federal Press and Information Bureau organized a friendly meeting with the leading staff of our mass communications media and publishing houses in Prague on Wednesday [28 December].

Jan Fojtik, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and Central Committee secretary, began his address by greeting the representatives of our press, radio, television, and other organizations on behalf of the CPCZ leadership and of the CPCZ Central Committee General Secretary personally, and by thanking them for their work this year. He characterized the year 1988 as the year in which we began implementing the program of restructuring our society, as defined by the Seventh CPCZ Central Committee Session. It has not been an easy year, Jan Fojtik said. Under the direct impact of the stimuli coming from the CPSU, we started to carry out this program, to work out its details, and to elaborate it to suit our conditions and needs. It would be premature to sum up the results—this will be done by the 18th party congress, which we have begun to prepare. We have here a lengthy process of extremely serious, deep changes affecting all spheres of life in our society. Today the question is not who is for restructuring, and who is against it, today the question is how to carry it on, in keeping with the conditions under which we have to work. This was also pointed out by the 10th CPCZ Central Committee Session, which dealt with the tasks on the ideological front. We want to proceed with energy and determination, but also with prudence and a sense of responsibility.

He then stressed that, in the sense of the 10th CPCZ Central Committee Session, it is above all necessary to push through the creative approaches in all sectors and all activity. It is necessary to view the solution of problems in the light of new needs and requirements and to eliminate all that has been hampering socialism to

date—this is the basic requirement. It is necessary to tackle this creative work with our entire wisdom and energy, while respecting the experience acquired at such a high price. In this context Comrade Fojtik underscored the significance of the mass communications media as an outstanding instrument of ideological influence for mobilizing the broadest strata of our working people and citizens. He expressed appreciation of the efforts made by our media to push through and propagate this creative, constructive, and innovationist spirit in our society. At the same time he pointed out that, in implementing open policy and the flow of information to the public, we are standing merely at the beginning of a long road.

The new, extremely difficult tasks demand high qualifications and competence from journalists; they must weigh things in a businesslike and rational manner, and feel their social responsibilities. Next year we want to accelerate the transition to a new economic mechanism and carry out certain structural changes in the production, research, and distribution base, and also introduce a new style of management work in the central agencies. Within the party it will be necessary to go over to political methods of guiding the society and to develop a pluralism of policies and views on the basis of socialism. The thing is to publicly activate our every citizen and the people's creative potential for the benefit of the society and in the interests of further developing socialism, by intensifying socialist democracy, pursuing an open policy, and supplying broad information.

He underscored the significant role played by our press, radio, and television in organizing talks and discussions with the readers, listeners, and viewers; the talks and discussions must be characterized by a good knowledge of the matter, but also by cultured standards, and used for finding rational ways of resolving problems.

In conclusion Comrade Fojtik expressed the conviction that the journalists would honestly and honorably cope with the tasks of the coming period, and that they would energetically contribute toward our implementing the restructuring program in this country.

The traditional end-of-the-year meeting was also attended by Zdenek Horeni, CPCZ Central Committee Secretariat member and chief editor of RUDE PRAVO; by Marie Hutterova, secretary of the Committee for Party Work in the Czech SR; by Gejza Slapka, CPSL Central Committee Presidium and Central Committee secretary; by Otto Cmolik and Jaroslav Jenik, heads of CPCZ Central Committee departments; by Igor Skorica, head of CPSL Central Committee department; by Jiri Jira, first CSSR deputy minister of transportation and communications; and by other representatives of our political, public, and cultural life.

Report on 22 Dec CPCZ Presidium Session
AU0901131789 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
23 Dec 88 p 1

["Report on CPCZ Central Committee Presidium Session"]

[Text] Prague—At its session on Thursday [22 December], the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium discussed an analysis of the state, use, and effectiveness of the production potential and means spent on social and personal consumption in the two national republics. It described the fact that in the past 40 years the economies of the two national republics had been brought to the same levels in both production potential and satisfaction of people's needs as the distinct success of the social and economic development of the CSSR. It was stressed that deepening the interconnection of the unified Czechoslovak economy is of great importance for the convergence of the economic standards of the two republics. The analysis will be used in drafting the guidelines for social and economic measures for 1989-1990, to draft the Ninth 5-Year Plan, and for an overall prognosis to be submitted to the 18th party congress.

The Presidium also addressed topical issues pertaining to comprehensive housing construction. It noted that the targets of the Eighth 5-Year Plan in this sphere are not being fully implemented. Conditions for completing about 33,000 apartments have not been created. There are shortcomings in respect to comprehensive construction of housing developments, civic facilities are not up to standard, construction deadlines have not been successfully shortened, and problems with territorial [uzemni] planning and in the modernization of the housing stock continue. Dissatisfaction was voiced with investors, suppliers, and the appropriate central bodies. The Presidium acknowledged the government's set of measures, which create conditions for the completion of civic and technical amenities and housing complexes, for a smoother transition to and a more proportionate housing construction development after 1990, and which are economically feasible.

The Presidium acknowledged a report on the result of quality control carried out by the CSSR, the Czech, and the Slovak People's Control Committees in the third quarter of 1988 in 45 organizations. It noted that the causes of poor quality of production were eliminated in 20 of them and 65 personnel changes were made in this connection. A total of 75 production organizations were selected, in which direct quality control or a special control regimen will be gradually introduced; ministers-chairmen of the CSSR, the Czech, and the Slovak People's Control Committees will send letters of notification to these production organizations.

Some issues concerning problems connected with the present talks on the ban and scrapping of chemical weapons were also assessed. It was reiterated that the

CSSR Government is ready to immediately begin talks on the removal from or non-stationing of chemical weapons in central Europe and on corresponding verification measures. Such talks would give the necessary impetus for accelerating progress toward a worldwide ban on chemical weapons. At the same time, the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium noted that the CSSR does not possess, manufacture, or stockpile chemical weapons on its territory, and that in the CSSR there are no facilities for developing or manufacturing chemical weapons.

It assessed draft laws on the rules of procedure and on deputies of the CSSR Federal Assembly, and drafts of similar laws of the Czech and Slovak National Councils.

It acknowledged a report on the results of the working visit by Ignac Janak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, to the USSR on 5-8 December. It acknowledged a report submitted by Jozef Lenart, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, about his visit to Italy at the invitation of the League of Italian Cooperatives on 16-20 December. His talks with Achille Occhetto, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party Central Committee (ICP CC), were described as important. The ICP CC invited a 2-member delegation to attend its 18th Congress in March 1989.

The Presidium also assessed a report on the course and results of the conference of chairmen of the parliaments of Europe, the United States, and Canada held in Warsaw on 26-28 November 1988, a report on the official friendly visit by a delegation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly led by its Standing Committee chairman Yang Hyong-sop to the CSSR on 2-6 December 1988, and a report on the visit by Wladyslaw Baka, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee to the CSSR on 9 December.

It endorsed sending a CPCZ delegation to the Ninth DKP Congress to be held 5-9 January, headed by Karel Urbanek, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Committee for Party Work in the Czech SR.

Autumn Federal Assembly Session Declared Closed
AU0901151989 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
31 Dec 88 p 1

[CTK report: "Autumn Session of the CSSR Federal Assembly Concluded"]

[Text] Prague—In a letter to the CSSR Federal Assembly Presidium, CSSR President Gustav Husak announced that, in line with Article 61 of the Constitutional Law on the Czechoslovak Federation, he declares the autumn session of the CSSR Federal Assembly closed on 30 December 1988.

Honecker's Health Reportedly Deteriorating
AU0901155889 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
9 Jan 89 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Honecker's Handicap"]

[Text] For months the 76-year-old SED leader Erich Honecker has been suffering from the late sequelae of his many years of imprisonment during the Nazi era: He is losing his voice. Honecker's handicap was first noticed by the general public on 24 September 1988: During his speech on the occasion of the annual "militant appeal" of the SED workers militia he remained silent for several minutes. In the fall, visitors from the West wondered why Honecker suddenly interrupted the political conversation and stared out of the window. The Politburo accountability report, which Honecker presented to the Seventh Plenary Session of the Central Committee on 1 December, and which filled 48 columns in NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, was largely read by other comrades, according to SED officials. The illness might turn out to be a great handicap for the State Council chairman and party leader in the coming months: The GDR will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its founding with great pomp in 1989.

Kessler Speaks at Military Academy Anniversary
AU0901145089 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 5 Jan 89 p 1

[ADN report: "Heinz Kessler on the Military Academy's 30th Anniversary—Military Service in Socialism Is Peace Service"]

[Text] Dresden (ADN)—The 30th anniversary of the "Friedrich Engels" Military Academy was commemorated with a festive ceremony in Dresden on Wednesday [4 January]. Heinz Kessler, SED Central Committee Politburo member and minister of national defense, conveyed to the members of the highest military academy in the republic the most cordial greetings and congratulations from Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the State Council and National Defense Council.

In his ceremonial address, he paid tribute to the successful development of the academy into a nationally and internationally respected institution. He said that its development is characteristic of how the worker class, led by the Marxist-Leninist party, firmly allied with the working people in the GDR, and allied with the peoples of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, has reliably protected the worker-peasant power.

He said that at the Seventh SED Central Committee meeting, Erich Honecker clearly pointed out the consequences resulting from the Warsaw Pact's military doctrine for the safeguarding of peace and the armed protection of socialist achievements. In this context, the minister described military service in socialism as

responsible peace service. He said that at present a process is under way to put into practice national defense tasks that result from the military doctrine.

Army General Heinz Kessler said that NATO has still not put its own disarmament concept on the table. "Instead of constructive responses to the Soviet Union's truly historic peace initiatives, we only hear excuses and continually new preconditions, further and further-reaching demands to the USSR, the GDR, and the other Warsaw Pact states, up to and including massive attempts at interference in their domestic policy and legislation."

In view of this fact, the speaker confirmed the necessity to safeguard the defense capacity always at the required level. He expressed the certainty that the military academy will master the tasks of the near and distant future, just as it has done in the past. In doing so, collaboration and scientific cooperation with the educational and research institutions of the Soviet armed forces and other fraternal armies as well as the GDR academies and universities will prove useful, Minister Kessler said.

In a statement of intent to Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary, the members of the "Friedrich Engels" Military Academy state that in the 40th year of the GDR and in preparation for the 12th SED Congress, they will attain exemplary achievements which will match the overall balance of society in a worthy way.

The festive ceremony at the Culture Palace was opened by Lieutenant General Manfred Gehmert, chief of the military academy. Taking part were Prof Hans-Joachim Boehme, minister for university and technical school matters; Wolfgang Herger, director of the SED Central Committee Security Department; Hans Modrow, first secretary of the Dresden Bezirk SED leadership; staff members of the National Defense Ministry, generals and officers of the National People's Army, the GDR border troops, and the other defense and security organs. Among the guests were delegations of party-state organs, mass organizations, universities, colleges, and factories. Attending the ceremony were Army General Boris Snetkov, supreme commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany; Colonel General Vladimir Meretskov, deputy commander of the Warsaw Pact joint armed forces in the GDR's National People's Army; delegations of the fraternal armies from Bulgaria, the CSSR, Poland, the USSR, Hungary, and Romania, as well as military attaches accredited to the GDR.

The ceremony was concluded by a festive concert. Then Defense Minister Heinz Kessler gave a reception.

GDR State Budget for 1989 Published

AU2112205188 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 16 Dec 88 p 4

["Law of 14 December 1988 on the State Budget Plan for 1989"]

[Text] In keeping with the 1989 National Economic Plan, the GDR People's Chamber adopts the following law on the state budget plan for 1989:

Section One

The revenues and expenditures of the state, of the GDR state budget plan, and the funds from profits of the state-owned combines and enterprises are confirmed as follows:

	revenues and expenditures of the state	state budget plan	funds from profits of state- owned combines and enterprises
	—in millions of marks—		
revenues	301,521.0	275,214.8	26,306.2
expenditures	301,365.6	275,059.4	26,306.2
surplus of revenues over expenditures in 1989	155.4	155.4	—

Section Two

Itemization, According to Sectors, of Important Revenues and Expenditures of the State Budget

	revenues	expenditures	subsidies (-)	surplus (+)
	—in millions of marks—			
People's Chamber	—	12	—	12
State Council	—	13	—	13
Council of Ministers	36	150	—	114
State apparatus	373	4,430	—	4,057
—central state apparatus	317	2,100	—	1,783
—local state apparatus	56	2,330	—	2,274
coal and energy	15,290	5,648	+	9,642
ore mining, metallurgy, and potassium	11,714	4,167	+	7,547
chemical industry	23,653	5,379	+	18,274
electrical engineering and electronics	15,396	5,622	+	9,774
heavy machinery and installation construction	7,459	789	+	6,670

	revenues	expenditures	subsidies (-)	surplus (+)
	—in millions of marks—			
machine tool and processing machinery construction	4,640	690	+	3,950
general machinery, agricultural machinery, and vehicle construction	8,546	1,743	+	6,803
light industry	9,236	3,889	+	6,347
glass and ceramics industry	3,994	286	+	3,708
geology	2,150	565	+	1,585
bezirk-administered industry and foodstuffs industry construction	22,826	1,875	+	20,951
transportation	12,121	1,340	+	10,781
posts and telecommunications	13,749	9,384	+	4,365
water management	1,176	81	+	1,095
agriculture and foodstuffs industry, including cooperatives	2,626	1,970	+	656
forestry	13,687	9,852	+	3,835
domestic consumer goods trade	1,031	250	+	781
Academy of Sciences	5,610	643	+	4,967
housing	840	1,331	-	491
measures to ensure stable prices for the population	-	16,619	-	16,619
public education	-	51,006	-	51,006
university and technical school sector	403	11,241	-	10,838
vocational training	260	3,809	-	3,549
health and social sector	10	1,221	-	1,211
social security	9,966	18,353	-	8,387
culture	19,246	37,416	-	18,170
sports	1,005	2,840	-	1,835
recreation services	134	1,026	-	892
youth	120	465	-	345
television	398	770	-	372
radio	476	626	-	150
communal measures and services	130	302	-	172
foreign policy tasks	129	1,051	-	922
national defense	101	432	-	331
public security and order	-	16,186	-	16,186
securing the state borders	-	5,018	-	5,018
civil defense	-	1,221	-	1,221
	1	81	-	80

	revenues	expendi- tures	sub- sidies (-)	surplus (+)
	—in millions of marks—			
fire protection	3	106	-	103
payments by banks	10,197	-	+	10,197
taxes and duties	21,830	-	+	21,830

Main Items of Revenues and Expenditures of the State Budget

Section Three

State-Owned Enterprises and Combines

(1) On the basis of the further increase, according to plan, of the national economy's capacity and its efficiency by means of comprehensive intensification, a total of M204,569 million has to be paid to the state budget by the state-owned combines and enterprises (without agriculture, forestry, and the foodstuffs industry).

(2) For the further development of the material-technical basis and for the promotion of intensification, the state-owned combines and enterprises (without agriculture, forestry, and the foodstuffs industry) have to be provided with a total of M83,543 million from the state budget in addition to self-earned funds in order to finance scientific-technological tasks, investment projects, product-related price subsidies for producer goods, and for other measures that promote production.

Section Four

State-Owned Enterprises and Socialist Cooperatives of Agriculture and the Foodstuffs Industry

(1) In line with the planned targets for performance and efficiency, the state-owned enterprises of agriculture and the foodstuffs industry, as well as the socialist cooperatives of agriculture and their cooperative facilities have to pay M13,687 million to the state budget, including:

	—in millions of marks—
—payments of the state-owned combines and enterprises of agriculture and the foodstuffs industry	7,105
—economic tax from agriculture	5,600
—revenues from the agricultural state institutions	769
including from:	
institutions of the state veterinary system and crop protection	602
scientific-technical centers (including organization and computing centers of agriculture)	122
central exhibitions (Erfurt International Horticultural Exhibition and Markkleeberg Agra Fair)	14

(2) In continuation of the tested alliance policy, the state-owned enterprises and the socialist cooperatives,

and their cooperative facilities will be provided with M9,852 million from the state budget to promote production, including for:

	—in millions of marks—
—scientific-technological measures	473
—investments	344
—subsidies for agriculture as a whole	530
including for:	
measures of scientific-technological progress	201
amelioration	160
temporary, product-related subsidies	79
—location-related grants	259
—refunds of interest losses	156
—other measures to promote agricultural production	717
—price subsidies for producer goods for agricultural enterprises	4,323
—price subsidies for raw and basic materials	428
—value preserving measures for agricultural drainage ditches	217
—expenditures of agricultural state institutions	732
including:	
institutions of the state veterinary system and crop protection	593
scientific-technological centers (including organization and computing centers of agriculture)	103
for central exhibitions (Erfurt Horticultural Exhibition and Markkleeberg Agra Fair)	36

Section Five

Artisans Production Cooperatives and Other Socialist Cooperatives, as Well as Private Craftsmen and Small Businessmen (1) On the basis of an increasing performance, in particular concerning services for the population, and the further increase in efficiency, the artisans production cooperatives and the other socialist cooperatives, as well as the private craftsmen and small businessmen have to pay M9,701 million in taxes and duties to the state budget, including:

	—in millions of marks—
artisans production cooperatives	2,925
consumer cooperatives	2,318
private craftsmen and small businessmen	4,458

(2) In order to promote and intensify the performance of the cooperative and private crafts, as well as that of private retail traders, innkeepers, and other small businessmen, M235 million will be supplied by the state budget within the framework of financial allowances decided for the improvement of repairs, services, and supplies to the population.

Section Six

Taxation of the Population

In line with their increasing income, the citizens contribute M12,129 million to financing the tasks of the entire society. This includes:

	—in millions of marks—
revenues from payroll tax of workers and employees	10,500
motor vehicle tax	560
municipal taxes, especially property tax	394
other taxes, in particular from freelance jobs, inheritance, and acquisition of real estate	675

Section Seven

Budget Expenditures for the Implementation of Sociopolitical Tasks

In implementing the decisions of the 11th SED Congress on the consistent continuation of the main task in its unity of economic and social policy, the necessary means for the measures decided to implement the housing program and the sociocultural tasks are set down as follows, in line with the increase in performance and efficiency:

1. A total of 31,016 million is provided for the further implementation, according to plan, of the approved housing program. These funds will be used for housing construction, amounting to M9,658 million, which includes M3,759 million from the state budget.

These funds are designated in particular for:

	—in millions of marks—
—state-owned new housing construction, amounting to M3,839 million including from the state budget	391
—cooperative new housing construction, amounting to M2,122 million	
—agricultural new housing construction, amounting to M69 million	
—creation of apartments through renovation, amounting to M317 million, including from the state budget	56
—development work financed by the state budget	1,942
including for:	
housing construction [reason for parentheses in table unknown]	(1771)
construction of private homes	(171)

—construction of social facilities in the course of new housing construction, financed by the state budget	—in millions of marks— 1,039
including:	
public education	(478)
health and social sector	(284)
other facilities, such as youth clubs, recycling pick-up stations, service facilities, libraries, etc.	(277)
—new construction of private homes amounting to 1,163 million	
—modernization of apartments in order to raise housing quality, amounting to M1,968 million	
including from the state budget	613
—building repairs on housing stock, amounting to M6,492 million	
including from the state budget	3,601
—expenditures for heat, hot water, and energy supply, for waste disposal, plants, and other housing management expenditures, amounting to M7,644 million,	
including from the state budget	4,555
—interest and repayment of investment loans from the state budget for new housing construction	4,091

Financing is provided from

	—in millions of marks—
the state budget	16,619
loans	7,589
means of the combines and enterprises for the housing sector, in particular for company-owned housing	720
enterprises' own means	6,088
The enterprises' own means are divided as follows:	
rents of the VEB's in the housing sector	1,887
rents of socialist housing construction cooperatives	798
means of private house owners, including rents	2,265
means of the socialist housing construction cooperatives	895
means of those who build private homes for themselves	243

2. A total of M51,006 million will be provided from the state budget for price subsidies to ensure stable prices of basic consumer goods, rates, and services for the population, including:

	—in millions of marks—		—in millions of marks— revenues	expendi- tures
food	32,651			
industrial goods for the population	12,358			
fees for long-distance and short-distance passenger transportation	5,037			8
drinking water and fees for waste water treatment	472			5
repairs and services	488			1,062

3. The following was set down for the training and education of the young people and for the further qualification of adults:

	—in millions of marks— revenues	expendi- tures		—in millions of marks— revenues	expendi- tures
—public education	403	11,241	children's homes and boarding schools, in particular for children of citizens working abroad		
in particular for:			advanced training courses for teachers		
10-grade polytechnical secondary schools, expanded secondary schools, and secondary boarding schools, special schools, and schools for mentally handicapped children	5,951		investments for the new construc- tion and modernization of second- ary schools, childrens' institutions, and other public education facilities		
paying back of costs for room and board by the parents	113		In addition to the expenditures of the state budget, a total of M720 million from the means of the com- bines and enterprises is used for child care, in particular for kinder- gartens and children's vacation camps.		
revenues from services	18		—university and technical school sector	260	3,809
teaching and study devices, as well as toys and materials for use by children of preschool age and pupils in school hostels		215	in particular for:		
transportation of pupils		141	universities and colleges		1,449
kindergartens and combined insti- tutions		1,835	engineering and technical schools		505
meals for pupils in general educational schools		788	grants		690
payment of parents' shares for pupils' meals	195		boarding schools		196
meals for children in preschool institutions		267	supply of food to students in cafeterias		149
payment of parents' shares for children's meals	77		repayment of students' shares in costs for room and board	150	
children's homes		251	other revenues in the university and technical school sector	110	
work and school sports communi- ties to promote the pupils' special interests within the framework of extracurricular activities		53	science and technology		300
pioneer houses and pioneer stations		144	investments for new construction and modernization of facilities of the university and technical school sector		303
local vacation activities of pupils during summer, winter, and brief vacations		60	—vocational training	10	1,221
institutions directly subordinate to central state organs and central measures		46	in particular for:		
including:			enterprise vocational schools and enterprise hostels for apprentices		848
pioneer houses and pioneer stations	17		communal vocational schools		188
			communal hostels for apprentices		41
			practical vocational training in agri- culture, vocational counseling cen- ters, institutions for advanced training of vocational school teachers		70
			investments for the modernization and renovation of vocational train- ing facilities		23
			—institutions for adult qualification	44	154

4. For medical and social care for the citizens the following has been set down:

	—in billions of marks— revenues	expendi- tures		—in billions of marks— revenues	expendi- tures
—health and social sector	9,966	18,353	in total	19,246	37,416
in particular for:			The subsidies from the state budget		
hospitals		4,607	thus amount to a total of M18,170		
polyclinics, outpatient clinics, and		3,046	million, which comprises:		
doctors' offices			—subsidies for social insurance of		
medical sector in universities and		1,269	workers and employees of M15,239		
colleges			million;		
including:			—subsidies for social insurance of		
Charite Institute		247	the members of the socialist pro-		
university clinics and medical acad-		1,002	duction cooperatives and the other		
emies			working strata of M1,884 million;		
quick medical help and ambulances		237	—subsidies for pensions of the		
nurseries and combined institutions		1,444	intelligentsia of M781 million;		
payment of parents' contributions	49		—subsidies for pensions from vol-		
to the care for babies in nurseries			untary pension insurance of M28		
and combined institutions			million.		
state children's allowances and		3,390	Important revenues and expendi-		
birth allowances			tures of social insurance:		
facilities and measures to ensure		174	—revenues from fees paid by enter-	10,707	
hygiene at the workplace and in			prises, state organs and institutions,		
residential areas		88	and cooperatives		
vaccinations as well as disinfection			—revenues from fees paid by the	8,539	
and other preventive measures for			working people		
health protection			—expenditures for pensions		17,347
blood donations		98	free medical care for the citizens on		8,150
old-age homes and nursing homes		1,107	the basis of a social insurance sys-		
payment by citizens for accomoda-	131		tem		
tion and board in old-age and nurs-			sick pay		4,694
ing homes			pregnancy and maternity allow-		878
care for elderly citizens, housekeep-		235	ances		
ing, and provision of meals			subsidies to mothers for paid vaca-		849
institutions and support for social		251	tions during maternity leave		
security and care for seriously and			subsidies to mothers for paid vaca-		579
most seriously handicapped citizens			tions for the care for sick children		
additional allowances for families		101	pharmaceuticals		3,439
with three and more children			medication and medical aids		414
subsidies to organizations, such as		72	subsidies to denominational insti-		259
the GDR Red Cross, People's Soli-			tutions for medical services		
darity, and the Association of the			further expenditures for health and		591
Blind and Weak-Sighted			social care		
science and technology		100	including:		
investments for new construction		1,125	—transportation costs for patients		73
and renovation of hospitals, poly-			taking a cure and payment of ser-		
clinics, outpatient clinics, and other			vices of the FDGB vacation service		
facilities of the health and social			for cures		
sector			—hospital services by the Academy		20
revenues from payments for ser-	8,150		of Sciences		
vices of the state health institutions			—funeral allowances		64
by the social insurance			—allowances to trade union veter-		53
In addition to the expenditures			ans		
from the state budget, M315 mil-			administrative expenditures of		140
lion are provided for health and for			social insurance		
the social care of the working peo-					
ple from the means of combines					
and enterprises.					

—social insurance

5. To meet intellectual-cultural needs, for recreation, and for sports activities by the population, the following has been set down:

	—in millions of marks— revenues	expendi- tures		—in millions of marks— revenues	expendi- tures
—culture	1,005	2,840	of that:		
including:			subsidies to the FDGB vacation		168
financing of cultural institutions		489	program		
and measures, in particular theaters			local recreation facilities, such as		223
films and cinemas		280	camping grounds and swimming		
orchestras		78	pools		
culture and club houses		357	cultural care for the working people		20
promotion of folk arts		160	in health resorts		
FDJ youth clubs		152	investments for modernization and		46
cultural-political work of the con- cert and tour directorates		192	renovation of local recreation facilities		
museums and fine arts institutions		346	In addition to the expenditures		
state libraries		178	from the state budget, M1,055 mil- lion from the means of combines		
music schools		72	and enterprises, as well as from		
care and preservation of		45	state organs and institutions will be		
monuments			used for recreation facilities and the		
subsidies for social organizations, such as the GDR Cultural League, URANIA, the GDR Writers Associ- ation, the GDR Graphic Artists Association		64	working people's vacations.		
investments for new construction		215	—youth facilities, including youth	398	770
and renovation of cultural facilities			tourism		
entry fees for attending cultural		645	of that:		
events and revenues from the sale			youth hostels	29	81
of publications and other goods			young tourists' hotels and youth	33	63
of publications and other goods			recreation centers		
cultural enterprises	360	38	domestic and foreign youth tourism	305	442
In addition to the expenditures			central pioneer camps	27	89
from the state budget, M635 mil- lion will be used from the means of the combines and enterprises for the cultural facilities for the work- ing people, in particular for culture houses and clubs.					
—sports	134	1,026	In addition to the expenditures from the state budget, M105 million from the means of the combines and enterprises will be used to finance the young people's leisure activities.		
of that:			6. In order to help along young married couples, the state budget is to provide M255 million for the remission of loans to young married couples, including the remission of interests.		
maintenance of sports facilities, such as stadiums, sports-grounds, gymnasiums, and indoor swimming pools		581			
subsidies to the GDR Gymnastics and Sports Federation for children's, youth, and mass sports, the youth spartakiads, competitive sports, old people's and handicapped people's sports		338	Section Eight		
entry fees and revenues from ser- vices	134		Municipal Measures and Services		
investments for sports facilities		106	The following has been laid down for municipal mea- sures and services for the population:		
In addition to the expenditures				—in million marks—	expendi- tures
from the state budget, M125 mil- lion from the means of combines and enterprises will be used for the working people's sports activities.			in total	129	1,051
—recreation services and vacation program	120	465	of that:		
			—streetlights	—	250
			—street-cleaning and waste removal	45	286
			—care for and design of lawns, parks, and cemeteries	11	322

	—in million marks— revenues	expendi- tures
—service facilities, such as laun- dries, service acceptance facilities, baths, and other services	73	193

Section Nine

Approval of Individual Budgets

The central budget plan is approved as follows:

revenues M218,664.2 million

expenditures M218,508.8 million.

Section 10

The budgets of social insurance as an independent component part of the state budget within the central budget are approved as follows:

	workers and employees	members of the socialist production cooperatives and other working strata
	—in millions of marks—	
revenues	16,859.0	2,074.1
expenditures	32,097.8	3,958.4
subsidies from the state budget	15,238.8	1,884.3

Section 11

(1) The budgets of the GDR capital of Berlin and of the bezirke are approved as follows:

	revenues and expenditures	of which: share in total revenues of state budget	cash balance on 1 January 1989 and 31 December 1989
	—in millions of marks—		
Berlin	7,559.6	4,467.2	43.0
Cottbus	3,076.7	1,226.3	16.0
Dresden	5,271.8	1,846.5	36.0
Erfurt	3,956.8	1,257.4	24.0
Frankfurt (Oder)	2,540.4	1,137.3	13.0
Gera	2,392.9	899.2	16.0
Halle	5,340.8	1,879.0	33.0
Karl-Marx-Stadt	5,227.8	1,914.3	33.0
Leipzig	4,272.7	1,350.2	27.0
Magdeburg	4,161.3	992.0	27.0

revenues and
expenditures

of which:
share in
total revenues
of state budget

cash balance
on 1 January
1989 and 31
December 1989

—in millions
of marks—

Neubranden- burg	2,234.0	681.7	19.0
Potsdam	3,432.9	1,031.3	24.0
Rostock	3,207.5	1,365.3	22.0
Schwerin	2,076.3	491.4	16.0
Suhl	1,799.1	804.6	11.0
total	56,550.6	21,343.7	360.0

(2) The local people's representative bodies and their councils finance the planned expenditures from:

—remittances from the subordinate combines and enterprises;

—taxes and duties (without payroll tax);

—other self-earned revenues of the councils and their subordinate institutions;

—the shares in the overall revenues of the state budget.

(3) The funds of the local people's representative bodies and additional revenues in line with the legal provisions are available to the local people's representative bodies in order to ensure the financing of socially useful initiatives for the comprehensive fulfillment of the plan and for its purposeful overfulfillment, the shaping of social life, and the further improvement of the citizens' housing, working, and living conditions.

Section 12

Final Provisions

In accordance with section four of the law of 13 December 1986 on the GDR State Budget Regime (LEGAL GAZETTE I, no.23, p 383), the Council of Ministers decides on amendments to the 1989 state budget required for the implementation of the plans. The surplus of revenues over expenditures stipulated in section one must not be changed.

Section 13

The minister of finance issues implementation provisions.

Section 14

(1) This law goes into effect on 1 January 1989.

(2) At the same time the law of 18 December 1987 on the 1988 state budget plan (LEGAL GAZETTE I, no. 30, p 295) is rescinded.

Honecker Condoles UK on Plane Crash
LD0901172189 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1552 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, has sent Margaret Thatcher, prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a telegram expressing sincere sympathy to her and to relatives of the victims of the tragic airplane crash in central England.

Honecker Greets 'Arafat on PLO Anniversary
AU0301162689 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 31 Dec 88-1 Jan 89 p 2

[ND article: "GDR Will Continue To Stand Firmly at the Side of the Palestinian People"]

[Text] East Berlin—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, conveyed to the chairman of PLO and commander in chief of the armed forces of the Palestine Revolution, Yasir 'Arafat, the following greetings telegram:

It is my pleasure to cordially congratulate you, and through you the friendly Palestinian people, on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian resistance.

Latest developments have shown that the positive changes emerging in international relations favor efforts for a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

As was emphasized during your recent visit to Berlin, the GDR fully supports the Palestine peace initiative that is characterized by reason and realism. Like the PLO, the GDR supports the convening of an international Middle East conference under the auspices of the United Nations on the basis of Resolutions No 242 and 338 of the UN Security Council and the provision of the Palestinian people's right to self determination.

You may rest assured, esteemed Comrade 'Arafat, that the GDR will continue to stand in firm solidarity at the side of the Palestinian people.

For the year 1989 I wish you good health and further success in your responsible activity for the well-being of the Palestinian people.

Erich Honecker,

General secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council.

Salzgitter Center Publishes 'Horror Stories'
AU1001095489 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 5 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The Lower Saxony justice authorities obviously do not like the figures published on tourist traffic between the GDR and the FRG, as well as West Berlin. Therefore, they have found it necessary to have their spokesman Hans-Juergen Grasemann spread horror stories in recent days about acts of violence committed by the GDR. In order to prevent a close study of his data, Grasemann summarizes all the horror stories about the GDR that have been published since 1961. Among them is a story about a 30-year-old man who was shot down near Treptow/Neukoelln, even though it is a lie, as is the story about a 19-year-old who was shot at on the Elbe River on 15 September. Therefore, again the question is whether the Salzgitter Central Registration Office serves any purpose at all.

Obviously those Land governments who propose the abolition of the Salzgitter Registration Office are right, because this would be in the interest of further improving relations between the GDR and the FRG, and thus also in the interest of the development of tourist traffic.

FRG Laender Stop Payment for Salzgitter Center
AU1001091189 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 5 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The Schleswig-Holstein Government has terminated the agreement on financing the Salzgitter Central Registration Office. Klaus Klinger, Schleswig-Holstein justice minister, justified this step in a written notice by stating that there is no longer any need for this office. At the same time, the fact is deplored that the Land government did not follow North Rhine-Westphalia's initiative in 1984 to dissolve the institution. Owing to its deliberately demonstrative nature, the center has increasingly become a strain on relations between the two German states following the 1972 Basic Treaty.

So far, the federal Laender North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland, Hamburg, and Bremen have discontinued payments, without, however, terminating the agreement signed by the federal Laender on maintaining the center.

PZPR Envoy Addresses DKP Congress
LD0601211089 Warsaw PAP in English
1947 GMT 6 Jan 89

[By PAP Correspondent Eugeniusz Guz]

[Text] Bonn, Jan. 6—The DKP's consistent struggle in defence of the interest of working people, for social progress and consolidation of peace meets with approval and respect in Poland, says a message conveyed to the 9th Congress of the German Communist Party (DKP) by attending PUWP delegation, headed by CC Political Bureau member Kazimierz Cyprianiak.

Speaking of the nature of transformations taking place in Poland the message stresses that the process of national agreement is expanding and that it is concordant with the changes occurring in other fraternal parties and states whereas the goal of all those changes is to create possibilities for taking full advantage of the values of socialism in the practice of social life.

The PUWP delegation to the DKP Congress is also taking part in an international meeting with German Communists in Karlsruhe.

Tisch Holds TU Talks With Hungary's Nagy
LD0901221489 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1200 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The trade unions' task in further shaping socialism in the GDR and Hungary were discussed in Berlin on Monday by Harry Tisch, chairman of the National Executive of the GDR trade union federation FDGB and Sandor Nagy, general secretary of the National Council of the Hungarian Trade Unions (SZOT). The two trade union leaders underlined the usefulness of the varied, comradely exchanges of view between the fraternal trade unions both in the bilateral and multilateral area.

With reference to the growing responsibility of the trade unions for the safeguarding of peace, the two sides advocated support for the incipient disarmament process and moving away from confrontation in interna-

tional relations to cooperation, by means of concrete trade union initiatives, in order to make this irreversible.

The trade unions in the GDR Harry Tisch said, help to carry out exacting economic and social projects in further shaping an advanced socialist society. He particularly referred to the good results achieved in carrying out a unified economic and social policy and further developing democratic co-determination by the working people. Sandor Nagy explained the resolutions of the national conference of Hungarian trade unions and the tasks given to the Hungarian trade union movement to continue building socialism. He paid special attention to the close connection between economic reform and the development of socialist democracy, and talked about the representation of the working people's interest by the trade unions.

Statistics on 1988 Tourist Traffic Published
AU0901131489 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 4 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Travels to nonsocialist states and West Berlin in 1988

Travels to the FRG	2,790,582
Travels to Berlin (West)	3,956,261
Travels to other nonsocialist states	241,506
Total	6,988,349
Visitors from nonsocialist states and West Berlin in 1988	
Visitors from the FRG	3,579,213
Visitors from Berlin (West)	1,972,496
Visitors from other nonsocialist states	1,521,431
Total	7,073,140

Statement Denies Bodies Found by Romanian Border
LD0901234289 Budapest MTI in English
2320 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 9 (MTI)—On Monday in Budapest, the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior issued a statement in connection with the letter of the Gyula municipal organization of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, which was published in the January 9 issue of "MAGYAR NEMZET" under the title "Proposals in the Interest of Transylvanian Refugees". The letter, addressed to Istvan Stadinger, president of the National Assembly, says among other things:

"Information from an Interior source: For about three months the news has spread among people living near the border that there are several bodies in the maize-field by the border. On thoroughly combing the area, members of the police headquarters of Bekescsaba found 18 bodies in the maize-field over the 50-kilometre border section between Lokoshaza and Kotegeyan, all with shot wounds..." "According to those on duty in the concerned region, about 50 per cent of the refugees are transferred back to the Romanians, also at present in 1989. [sentence as received] They send back all Gypsies who do not speak well the Hungarian language or have a criminal record in Romania..."

The Hungarian Ministry of the Interior has examined the allegations of the letter, and issued the following statement on the subject:

It has been established that the police and frontier guard authorities did not find bodies and injured persons neither in the area indicated in the letter, nor along the entire Romanian-Hungarian frontier section. Consequently, the Interior authorities gave no such information to anybody, and the relevant allegations by private persons were totally ungrounded.

The allegation that the Hungarian authorities return some 50 per cent of the refugees without inquiry does not tally with the facts either. In keeping with the related political directives of the government, the competent state authorities look after the refugees with due regard to human rights and humanitarian considerations. The applications for residence permit are judged irrespective of nationality or religious affiliation. We also receive those crossing the border illegally, whose number of close to 6,500 in 1988.

At the same time, the Interior authorities also consider it their duty to prevent those disturbing our social life, including people coming on hostile errands, criminals and people living a roving life, from aggravating the troublesome integration of refugees into Hungarian society. For this reason, in 1988 a fourth of the people crossing the border illegally were sent back to Romania after a careful examination. In this way, the letter does not tally with the facts in this respect either. This is indicated by the fact that between December 27, 1988

and January 1, 1989, 29 persons arrived illegally in the territory of Bekes County. One of them, with a criminal record, was sent back after the investigations justified the suspicion that he had come to Hungary on a special commission.

In the light of all this, the letter published in "MAGYAR NEMZET" misleads Hungarian and international public opinion with its ungrounded allegations and references, is detrimental to the humane treatment of the refugees affairs and to Hungarian society bearing the burden of the refugees. It aggravates efforts to look for, and apply new solutions, along with society, to the problems that are increasing parallel with the steadily growing number of refugees.

'Rumormongering' To Be Investigated

LD0901225289 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 2100 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] [Announcer] I have here in my hands the proofs for the Tuesday [10 January] issue of NEPSZABADSAG. I have learned from this that the deputy supreme state prosecutor is launching a fact-finding criminal investigation to shed light on the news sources from which originated the letter of the Gyula organization of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [HDF], which was published in today's issue of MAGYAR NEMZET, and according to which the corpses of several people, who had been shot, were found near the Hungarian-Romanian border. In his interview, which is to be published in tomorrow's issue of NEPSZABADSAG, Dr Sandor Nyiri also says: Depending on the results of the investigation, a decision will be made on who will be investigated, on suspicion of rumor-mongering, in accordance with paragraph 270 of the penal code. Our correspondent in County Bekes, Eva Cseh, has looked into these reports.

[Begin recording] [Cseh] Three people from the provisional presidium of the Gyula organization of the HDF are here to participate in this conversation. They chose Gabor Pocsai to be their spokesman. Bekes County Police Headquarters has denied the truth of your letter. What is the source of your information, according to which 18 dead bodies were found on the Hungarian-Romanian border? Small children were seen whose foreheads had been pierced by bayonets.

[Pocsai] Our information originates from the immediate vicinity of the border, from a person who, due to his work, possesses immediate, direct information. According to him, the 18 corpses were found on a deserted stretch of the border, immediately at the boundary.

[Cseh] Are you certain that the opinion of one person is correct?

[Pocsai] We have endeavored, through our own modest means, to get as close as possible to the core of the truth, on the basis of several conversations with the person

concerned, with a clarification of the details. Of course, we are aware that our means are very finite, and I think that stemming precisely from this, it would be fortunate if the border guard and the Interior Ministry organs themselves were to look into these matters, with their far greater resources, so that clean water really could be poured into the glass.

[Cseh] Bekes County Police Headquarters, whose chief is Police Colonel Gyorgy Mihalik, already denied, in the morning, the contents and truth of the letter that was published in MAGYAR NEMZET.

[Mihalik] Not only were there not 18 corpses on the border and in the vicinity of the border, but there were no corpses whatsoever. On 29 December, an article from the national commander of the border guard was published in NEPSZABADSAG, in which he said that the number of Romanian citizens who had been sent back to Romania was around (?1,400). Of this figure, 400 are in Bekes County.

[Cseh] And how many came?

[Mihalaik] Around 2,000.

[Cseh] The Democratic Forum says that half are sent back, and with a certain prejudice, meaning primarily Gypsies and criminals, and also those who do not know Hungarian.

[Mihalik] Those who we do send back are people who refuse to work, tramps, alcoholics, and more than once, mentally deranged people, and also people who have committed a crime in Romania. Nor do we keep it secret that we send back people who perhaps were sent in order to find out about measures of ours which do not pertain to Romania.

We do not keep a record of who is a Gypsy, and who is not a Gypsy. We have sent back Gypsies who were criminals, but we also have information on having allowed Gypsies in who found a place for themselves either in Bekes County or more toward the interior of the country. [end recording]

Minister on Possible Diplomatic Ties With Israel
LD1001031189 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 2100 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] According to Agriculture and Food Minister Jenő Vancsa, Hungary and Israel may soon establish diplomatic relations. In the personal opinion of this Hungarian politician, this could take place within 3-4 months. Jenő Vancsa said this in Israel after signing an agreement between the two countries on agricultural cooperation. The agreement provides possibilities for joint ventures in plant protection and veterinary services.

Further on Relations, Talks

TA0901123889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Israel and Hungary have signed a wide-ranging agricultural memorandum of understanding. At a news conference at the Knesset, Israel's Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz and his Hungarian counterpart Jenő Vancsa spoke of the establishment of full diplomatic ties between Budapest and Jerusalem. From the Knesset, David Ze'ev reports:

The memorandum of understanding culminates a 9-day visit by the Hungarian agriculture minister. While he and his Israeli counterpart Avraham Katz-'Oz spoke of the economic and agrotechnological advancement the memorandum will create, the political undertones were clear. Asked about statements that Budapest and Jerusalem would soon establish full diplomatic ties, Minister Jenő Vancsa said it was only his personal opinion, but he believes they would be established within a few months—this despite the threats from Palestinian groups against Hungarian Government offices in that country if such moves continue. For the details, Minister Vancsa told reporters at today's news conference to redirect their questions to the country's foreign minister.

Minister Katz-'Oz called the memorandum of understanding a new horizon in relations with the East in this first trip to Israel by an Hungarian minister. Katz-'Oz said Hungary was a country of extensive agriculture and that Israel was facing many of the same essential issues that had to be approached. Custom tariffs will be reduced to the extent possible, and the two countries would generally export their technology to other parts of the world, including the United States and the USSR. The Hungarian minister called his trip to kibbutzim and moshavim unforgettable and said his country has much to learn.

Varkonyi Returns to Budapest From Paris Talks
LD0801212489 Budapest MTI in English
2024 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 8 (MTI)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi, who addressed the international conference dealing with issues of prohibiting chemical weapons, returned to Budapest from Paris.

Interviewed on CW Conference
LD1001043689 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 1730 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] NATO has welcomed the Soviet announcement that the destruction of Soviet chemical weapons [CW] stocks will begin soon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi, who has just returned from Paris where he took part in the international conference on abolishing chemical weapons, has scarcely yet been able to unpack his luggage. What at the Paris conference had the greatest impact on you?

[Varkonyi] With regard to the unpacking, it does not take me long. I already worked a normal day today. As far as the Paris conference is concerned, I would like to highlight one thing. I met most of the foreign ministers in the course of various events, receptions, and luncheons, in the course of President Mitterrand's reception, and during the conference recesses, and I was struck by how the majority now were emphasizing the English slogan: Keep up the momentum. [preceding four words in English] That is, we should maintain the impetus. The significance of the Paris conference lies in that such a large conference, with the great majority of states participating, could be organized within a few months of the initiative made at the September UN General Assembly session.

[Correspondent] We know that there have been talks for a very long time in Geneva on abolishing chemical weapons. In spite of this fact, there has been no agreement yet. Will this current conference bring a full agreement closer?

[Varkonyi] The Geneva talks really have been under way for a long time, and there is continuing interest in our prohibiting chemical weapons, but opinions in Geneva have diverged over the fact that the countries that have, or had, chemical weapons, have worked for us to repeat, or add to, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which declares a prohibition.

[Correspondent] Thus, not an abolition of weapons, but a ban on their use?

[Varkonyi] Yes, their use is banned. The issue is that in the case of chemical weapons, their manufacture, stockpiling, and further spread must be banned. Thus, a comprehensive and general ban is necessary. One point of significance at the Paris conference was that in this regard it could accelerate the talks at the Geneva disarmament conference if the representatives of the participating states reflect this commitment.

Varkonyi Meets Albanian Counterpart 6 Jan
LD0601223189 Budapest MTI in English
1851 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 6 (MTI)—On Friday [6 January] Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi met Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile, who stopped over some hours in Budapest. In a brief consultation, the ministers surveyed topical tasks and possible expansion of bilateral relations and exchanged views on some topical international political affairs.

Nemeth Receives Bulgaria's Lukanov
LD0901161689 Budapest MTI in English
1531 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 9 (MTI)—On Monday Miklos Nemeth, chairman of the Council of Ministers, met Andrey Lukanov, Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations and co-chairman of the Hungarian-Bulgarian Committee for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation, who is attending the 23rd session of the committee in Budapest. Mr Lukanov met Minister of State Rezso Nyers. The meetings were attended by Frigyes Berecz, minister of industry and Hungarian co-chairman of the committee.

Istvan Szabo Returns From Cuba 6 Jan
LD0601155289 Budapest MTI in English
1510 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 6 (MTI)—Istvan Szabo, member of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and president of the National Council of Cooperatives (TOT), returned to Budapest from Cuba on Friday [6 January]. Mr Szabo headed a party delegation which attended the Havana ceremonies marking the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

Japanese Newspaper Interviews Grosz
LD0701163489 Budapest MTI in English
1552 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 7 (MTI)—Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, gave an interview to the correspondents of the Japanese economic-political daily 'NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN'. The interview focused on Hungarian political and economic processes, Hungary's international activity, and Hungarian-Japanese relations.

Workers Hold 'Warning Strike' Over Price Hikes
LD0901182189 Budapest MTI in English
1723 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 9, 1989 (MTI-ECONews)—Many ten thousand workers in Szabolcs-Szatmar County (eastern Hungary) held a 10-minute warning strike today to protest the steep price-rises effective on that day. Trade union leaders of the country supported the action of the workers.

Workers started to work with a ten minute-delay today morning.

A position the Central Council of Trade Unions (CCTU) adopted on Friday [6 January] called it fully justified that wide masses of workers should express indignation over steep price-rises, but held it was no one's interest to unleash a wave of protest that would eventually culminate in mass work stoppages, since this would endanger the country's economic and political stability.

Social tension produced by successive price-rises makes it inevitable for government agencies to take concrete steps for the elaboration and implementation of a wage and social policy reform, the CCTU position insists.

It is a wide belief in Hungary that while the prices of products and services are coming increasingly to be controlled by the market, labour market is making a much slow progress, with wages unaffected by market laws.

The CCTU says while prices are coming increasingly to be shaped by market laws, wages and incomes are failing to ensure adequate coverage for the reproduction of labour. The unions demand, therefore, that budget support liberated by price-rises be used for the compensation of price-rises, for financing a wage and social policy reform.

The unions say workers' right to strike in protest of price-rises should be recognized in the practice of application of the strike law.

Union Protests Noted

LD0901215289 Budapest MTI in English
2045 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 9 (MTI)—The announced price rises have induced the trade unions at several places to make it clear to the government in different ways that the tolerance of the population has reached a critical level in this field.

On Monday the Presidium of the Csongrad County Council of Trade Unions sent an open letter to Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, protesting against the January 9 rise of consumer prices on behalf of the organized workers of the country. As a result of the measures, the situation of the local population is deteriorating to a larger than average extent, as the wages and pensions here lag far behind the national average. The Presidium requests the government to work out a programme for the elimination of the disadvantageous conditions in Csongrad County.

On Monday morning tens of thousands of workers in Szabolcs-Szatmar County staged a 10-minute work stoppage in protest against the price rises. The local trade union leaders notified the county council of trade unions back in the middle of last week that the workers received the news of the planned price rises very unfavourably and were preparing for protest actions. In this situation—as Mrs Sandor Marik, secretary of the county trade union council informed the MTI correspondent—the trade union leadership of the county decided to support the initiative of workers to protest against the price rise by a 10-minute delay in starting work amid organized frames Monday morning.

During its special extended session on Monday, the Presidium of the Zala County Council of Trade Unions adopted a position, expressing anxiety mainly about the fact that the major price rises affected the circle of basic consumer goods.

The members of the Gutenberg Trade Union Federation—the Printing Workers' Union, the Paper Workers' Union, the Press Workers' Union and the Publishing Workers' Union—have formulated a common stand during their joint session on Monday, in connection with the price rises introduced on January 9. For the partial compensation of price rises, they held it indispensable to raise wages, as of February 1, by a uniform 5 per cent in their trades. The federation called on the basic organizations belonging to the professional trade unions to immediately start talks about the pay rise with the economic managers of companies. The Gutenberg Trade Union Federation regards this only as a first step of wage increases in 1989.

Official Holds News Conference on Higher Prices LD0901204989 Budapest MTI in English 1800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 9 (MTI)—On Monday a press conference was held in Budapest on the background of the consumer price rises announced on Sunday. Officials said that the measures followed a major cut in state subsidies and served the aim of restoring the balance of the central budget.

State Secretary Bela Szikszay, president of the National Price Office, said that in 1988 central subsidies amounted to 200,000 million forints, out of which 60,000 million forints were consumer price subsidies. The prices of milk, milk products, solid combustibles, household energy, local transport, state-owned flats, drinking water and the drainage service were particularly subsidized.

The price rises planned for this year are to increase the per capita expenditures of families by 800 forints. In the first half of 1989, retail traders expect a 10-15 per cent drop in food sales as compared to the similar period of last year. This will not cause special problem for agriculture and the food industry since their products will find ready sales abroad.

Mr Szikszay said that this year producer prices would increase more rapidly than last year. The average rise will be about 9.5 per cent, stemming mostly from the expected increase in import base materials. Bela Szikszay stressed that in future domestic prices will follow the world market price movements not only if they rise but also if they fall.

As the wage mechanism has become far more flexible in 1989 than in the previous years, despite the large-scale price rise the conditions are given for real incomes to drop to a lesser extent than last year.

National Assembly Resumes Session 10 Jan
LD1001111489 Budapest MTI in English
1010 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Budapest, January 10 (MTI)—The session of parliament which opened on December 20, 1988 was resumed at 10 a.m. on Tuesday. According to the planned schedule, the deputies are to discuss the bills on the amendment to the Constitution, on the right of association and the right of assembly. The National Assembly is to discuss the modification of its rules as well. The number of registered interpolations and questions has increased since the beginning of the session.

Opening the Tuesday session, Speaker Istvan Stadinger greeted Andras Derzsi, the newly elected minister of transport, telecommunication and construction. The National Assembly noted with approval that the mandate of the deceased MP Laszlo Nagy had been taken over by Istvan Toth.

Pozsgay Interviewed Prior to Kaposvar Rally
LD1001034589 Budapest Television Service
in Hungarian 1830 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Speaking before a rally of intellectuals in Kaposvar, Minister of State Imre Pozsgay said that today was an unhappy day. More than 2,000 citizens heard the talk by the Politburo member, with whom Sandor Leku spoke prior to the rally.

[Leku] When you set off for Kaposvar, what did you put in your bag? What will you say as a speaker at the rally?

[Pozsgay] First and foremost, it is necessary to genuinely clarify the question of whether specialized knowledge and democracy are compatible. I, of course, have a ready answer to this question, not because such answers come too easily, but because I have staked my life on proving that without democracy, specialized knowledge also can be swept off the table in a world of despotism. Thus, neither the intelligentsia nor the politician should be frightened if democracy is demanded, because no matter how complicated the system, in a democratic world or atmosphere, there is nevertheless a greater chance for knowledge, for expertise, and for mapping out responsibility than under all other kinds of systems.

[Leku] The intelligentsia and other social groups await your presentation. Do you know or have any feeling of what this program may be?

[Pozsgay] Inflation is in our program now because when the political arena opened up, everyone—both the official, professional organizations and the new, alternative initiatives—knew that without an intelligent and pursuable plan there would be no chance to find a handhold among Hungarian public opinion, which had sunk somewhat into lethargy and a feeling of being a subject.

From this point of view, the politician—beyond being committed to a comprehensive general political intention and objective—owes a characteristic formulation of his personal, individual program. So, from this point of view, it is especially good for me to be able to meet intellectuals here. I would like to convey to them, and through what I say here also to the workers, that a new Hungary can take shape only through an awareness of their interdependence. This enables us to act instead of collapse when we view our problems.

Discusses Democratization
LD0901214389 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 1730 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] [Presenter] At 1400 in Kaposvar a program began in which Minister of State Imre Pozsgay met representatives from various social organizations. Pal Toth reports from the location:

[Toth] We witnessed an event which was entirely different from political rallies of the past 4 decades. Imre Pozsgay, member of the MSZMP Politburo and government minister of state, arrived in the town sports hall at the request of 11 social organizations and groups. Among the hosts were the Hungarian Democratic Forum, FIDESZ [Federation of Young Democrats], the local MSZMP organization, and also the Berzsenyi Society, as well as a group of economists and the chamber of lawyers. This was the first basic difference. The other was that there was debate, [word indistinct] common thought, in the nearly 3-hour-long program, between the minister of state and 3,000 intellectuals.

In his introduction, Imre Pozsgay described today as being unhappy due to the price rises. He stated that the people have to pay again for the mistakes of the leadership, because there is no other way. However, he did not intend the meeting to be a confession, but he was guided by the recognition that the devaluation of knowledge for several decades had caused immeasurable damage to the country. The crisis, he said, is not necessarily a catastrophe. It can be information, which stimulates the nation to cooperate. The minister of state considers the main problem to be the lack of trust in the leadership and also that society is being atomized. Imre Pozsgay then replied to the main questions:

[Begin Pozsgay recording] As for the one-party-multi-party relationship: There is no kind of intention in scientific socialism—if I look at it from the viewpoint not of bourgeois cultures and political cultures, but from the scientific viewpoint—and no one will find for me one such line which would be able to recommend the one-party system as an advisable and useful form of political system. However, the fact that there was one-party rule in the country here for 4 decades must be taken into account as a political-cultural reality, and that there is no political-social practice which is linked to party-grouping and which in the meantime is able to maintain society while stabilization takes place.

This is not the issue, the matter of people's maturity or immaturity. This is a matter which lies outside of it; it happened outside of it. It is not possible to get out of this without this society, this country breaking down, by a democratization which is announced from one day to the next. This needs, at least, a developmental phase—let there be no misunderstanding, not 40 years—in which the various alternative movements become partners.

In connection with the questions posed, vis-a-vis the speeches of party General Secretary Karoly Grosz and Janos Berecz: Why is fear aroused by certain statements which, as it appears to people, either were not thought over or demonstrate a change of direction or something else? Because the system is suspended—too much—on one point, and if a loosening, a slackening, appears at this point of suspension—which is now called the Politburo—all of society at that moment feels itself to be uncertain, and it views every debate, every difference of opinion between the leaders, and so forth, as betrayal. In the meantime, it is struggling for a type of society whose leaders criticize one another—let us say as in the FRG, in the United States, or no matter where.

If pluralism is being prepared and there is a loosening among the leaders of a political party, then it is virtually a logical consequence that under such conditions, a premier's responsibility in statements to the country is different from that of a party general secretary, who labors for the cohesion of his own membership on a political racecourse. This does not amount to some type of change of direction, or some kind of turnabout.

In a conversation with a Democratic Forum representative in the October discussions, I said that if there was a turnabout which was contrary to my ideals, direction, conduct, and commitment to date, then I would not be there at that turnabout. This is natural. However, it also is one of the political consequences.

I consider myself to be consistent, but I am pleased if others, who hitherto had thought otherwise, who had professed views differing from mine, now agree with me. I quoted the ancient saying that a snake perishes if it cannot shed the skin it has outlived. A person perishes if he cannot change his opinion. Here, however, there is something which I would add to this wisdom: He should let us know that he has changed his opinion. [applause] [end recording]

'Free Democrat' Laszlo Rajk Interviewed
LD1001095589 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 1815 GMT 9 Jan 89

[From the "First-hand Information" program; interview with Laszlo Rajk, son of former Interior Minister Laszlo Rajk, by presenters Tamas Forro and Henrik Havas; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Presenter] Laszlo Rajk, Jr, have you ever sat here in the studio of Hungarian radio before this?

[Rajk] I have never sat here before, as an interviewee.

[Presenter] It is common knowledge that in the official press you did not, could not, speak openly for a very long time. Has anything changed in recent times?

[Rajk] Well, so far it is rather with my own work opportunities that I can measure this. The case was rather that I could not find work easily; I had to work as (?an anonymous) scenery designer in quite a lot of Hungarian movies. This has now changed, and I can work under my own name. [passage omitted] I was banned in the theater as a stage designer until this season.

[Presenter] When was this?

[Rajk] From 1981-88.

[Presenter] Were you given anything in writing about your being banned? Was this an official instruction or command? How are these things done?

[Rajk] I think that you in particular must know this quite well, because in radio there are also quite a lot of people who are banned. These things are generally done by telephone. So, there is no trace of this whatsoever. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Did it ever happen that, let us say, a party leader sat down with you and told you: With your name, you should practice different politics.

[Rajk] Of course, of course. Once I was called to the party headquarters, and Andras Knopp, who at that time had party headquarters responsibility for the opposition, asked me point-blank to give up my samizdat activities, to which I replied that I would very gladly apply for a trade permit if the only problem was that I was carrying out a commercial activity without paying taxes or anything else. No dialogue developed about this. So, what we were left with was that I should discontinue these activities. House searches, fines, and other things followed this quasiwarning. As for the police, now that I think about it, I felt it even then; they never wanted to bring things to the level of a political affair. In other words, they tried to keep house searches, car searches, arrests, night interrogations, and so forth at the level of a common-law offense, a minor offense, which would not damage Hungary's image—that is, the image of a liberal socialist country. So, the limit was always that the whole samizdat affair, or parallel culture affair, should not reach the political plane. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Since last May's party conference, the alternative organizations have been proliferating like mushrooms, yet one hears nothing about you.

[Rajk] I am a member of the Alliance of Free Democrats, and within this I am also a member of the advisory body.

[Presenter] May we ask a topical question concerning your father?

[Rajk] Naturally.

[Presenter] In recent times, we have read a great deal about the Rajk trial, or events in connection with the Rajk trial. I have the impression that very many people have an interest in trying to prove that Laszlo Rajk was a victim of the show trials, he who as a matter of fact, under the mandate of the Communist Party, launched the show trials. A colleague mine read a publication in which two party members supposedly remarked during the Rajk funeral: If Rajk could see this, he would have us shot. What are your feelings, Laszlo Rajk, Jr, faced with the fact that your father's role is being reexamined and reevaluated?

[Rajk] I was one of the initiators of this—not reevaluation, but I think objective evaluation—although domestic public opinion is not very aware of this, as this took place in the foreign press, television networks, and other places. I believe that in my father's political life-history, the trial was not the most important point. As a matter of fact, it was the final point, not only in the physical sense, but also in the figurative sense. And I think that what our parents' generation never taught us—they have never passed on the experience—is precisely that which should be examined, and this is something which, I believe, is not spoken about to this day. By this I mean... [pauses] and it is also a very well-known slogan when they say: The older ones at least believed in it, and the new ones do not even believe any more, but they do these things merely out of ambition, or for some quite different reason. So, the question of faith, the question of communist faith, is the Gordian knot which we should somehow untie.

We should be able to do this philosophically, spiritually, and in matters of faith as well, because on the one hand, if someone says: I believed it, that seems to be an excuse, and we forgive him for having believed it. In addition, they did not teach us where they erred—those who believed. No one in Hungary has ever written this, that this was the biggest trouble, that they believed it. And they do not say why they believed it, how they believed it. As for what they did, that we already know [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

What is still valid to this day, I think, is that in a monoculture, especially where power, where everything in political or cultural life is monopolized, or lies very much in one direction—which is the case in Hungary—it is very important to build, or try to build, some kind of parallel culture, one which is not a counterculture, not an underground culture, none of these epithets, but quite simply a parallel culture, one which goes its own way and does not try to proclaim itself the one and only savior, but which quite simply exists and does its own thing. [passage omitted]

Alternative Organizations' Officials on Programs

LD0901111189 [Editorial Report] Budapest Television Service in Hungarian at 1800 GMT on 8 January, in its "The Week" program, carries interviews by its correspondent Katalin Rangos with "prominent alternative organizations' representatives." The venue and date of the interviews is not given, and those interviewed are not verbally identified. Identification of those interviewed is made from the introductions given by Rangos.

Opening the program, Rangos says that the Hungarian Democratic Forum [HDF] was founded on 27 September 1987 as an independent intellectual-political movement, that it has 10,000 members, and that membership dues are 200 forints annually.

HDF representative Zoltan Biro says: "What perhaps is more characteristic of us than of the other alternative organizations is that we have very closely linked the cause of democracy with the cause of the nation—of national interests and national values. Perhaps this, in terms of our program, is what gives special emphasis to the HDF. Apart from this, what is characteristic is that we consider ourselves an intellectual-political movement. This, in part, separates the HDF from the immediate party groupings which have come into being here in the past months, and also, in part, from other alternative groupings—such as the TDDSZ [Democratic Trade Union of Scientific Workers], which has a definite interest-protection task, because it functions as a trade union—and from other alternative organizations."

Rangos asks: "Do you not wish to organize yourselves into a party, even in perspective?"

The HDF representative answers: "Yes, a lot of people ask that. We do not preclude the possibility of this. However, we think about it a lot, and we are working not to take a path which, we feel, does not take us anywhere—that is, to organize ourselves on the model of the classical parties, let us say, the parties operating in Hungary between 1945-48. These parties brought very many values to the surface; they have good traditions. However, the world is different, and our life is entirely different; it is not certain that we might have to copy them. At the moment, among the members of the HDF are people who consider a so-called reform-communist idea to be good, and who feel committed to this. There are some, however, who instead live in some kind of Christian democratic world and sphere of thought."

Rangos asks: "In this regard, do you have debates?"

The HDF representative responds: "No. If there has been debate, it has not stemmed primarily from this. The debates have taken shape, rather, around practical, political issues."

Rangos then speaks about the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ], saying it was formed on 30 March 1988, that it has about 2,500 members and 24 rural organizations, and that membership dues are 50 forints per month.

FIDESZ representative Tamas Deutsch states: "As for FIDESZ, the focus of our political activity is that we are believers in radical transformation, guaranteed by the law. Thus, 1989 is the year of codifying the new constitution, and we would like to take part in this codification process with our own political weight." He goes on to say that FIDESZ also wishes to take an active part in the social debate over other laws on the National Assembly agenda's in 1989. He says that FIDESZ would like to propose a plan on employment policy as the unemployment of youths will be a growing problem in 1989, and that FIDESZ also desires more active cooperation with other youth organizations that think similarly. He continues: "Our relationship with the Hungarian political organization representing the greatest political force, the party, is slowly inclining toward peaceful coexistence. We do not, or are unable to, endanger the party; for its part, on many occasions we feel that it relates to us, and not only through political means. We would like to relate to one another only through political means."

Rangos then introduces the Ference Munnich Society [FMS], saying it was Formed on 11 November 1988, that it has 5,500-6,000 members and 47 rural groups, and that membership dues, which are determined voluntarily, are between 10 and 50 forints monthly. Rangos continues: "According to their spokesman, there were groups, such as Workers Guards units, which wished to join the society collectively, but the organizers insist on admitting people as individuals."

FMS representative Ferenc Bereny states that the FMS was formed because it was felt that from mid-1988 various organizations were being formed which viewed society in a one-sided manner. The FMS believes that what was bad in the past must be rejected, but what was good in socialism must be kept. He says: "The FMS does not want to be a party. It does not want to be, it has no idea of such a thing, and there never has been any thought of its becoming a party. I have heard that there supposedly is a so-called Communist Party. We are not those people. I feel that the Communist Party (?is) the MSZMP, and that the MSZMP is increasingly becoming a communist party, as it renews itself more and more. We would like for there to be order in the country."

Rangos then notes that the Alliance of Free Democrats [AFD] was formed 13 November 1988, that it has about 1,800 members, with 5 rural and 2 workers' groups, and that membership dues are 80-120 forints [no time frame as heard].

AFD representative Imre Mecs states: "We would like to create a pluralistic society, and our stand is fundamentally that democracy is the most important; socialism

can develop from the soil of democracy, but not against it. We have a program, which is being drafted, which would embrace all of society's problems, and which, properly speaking, corresponds to a government program. Debates on this are under way in committees, and we will hold a national conference in the spring, at which it will be debated by the entire collective. It will then be made public." He then says that the Free Democrats are willing to cooperate primarily with alternative organizations, with FIDESZ, with the HDF, and with the Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Society. He says in conclusion: "We consider part of the MSZMP membership to be potential allies, and we, in many cases, are able to reach a consensus with these."

Rangos, in introducing the Social Democratic Youth Circle [SDYC] representative, says that the body was formed on 30 November 1988, and that it has 100 members and 3 rural organizations.

SDYC representative Gyorgy G. Markus says that in domestic politics, we want a division of power, a multi-party system, and the assertion, without restrictions, of human rights, including, of course, the rights of minorities, but the supplementing of these with social rights, in terms of social policy. He continues: "We want a social policy not based on market principles, one which guarantees, as a citizen's right, the security of existence and living conditions which are worthy of man." In conclusion, he says that apart from work in Hungary, the SDYC also considers it very important to develop external relations with the international social democratic movement.

Rangos then introduces the Smallholders' Party, noting that it was originally formed in 1930, that it resumed its activity on 18 November 1988, that it has 3,000 members, that membership dues are generally 100 forints [no timeframe as heard], and that by the end of December, 34 local organizations had formed. Smallholders' Party representative Dr Karoly Ravasz says that it is a political party whose program is comprehensive and extends to every issue. Priority is given to agrarian policy when working out the detailed program points, and importance is given to working out an economic policy which would extricate Hungary from its current difficulties.

Rangos then comments on the New March Front [NMF], saying it was first written about in September 1988, although it had formulated its operating principles in March of the same year.

NMF representative Laszlo Lengyel states: "For 1989, we wish to continue the program that began with the democracy package plan—namely, the process of democratizing Hungarian society, of changing its system of political institutions. In this, we wish, probably this month, to make a proposal on what consultation could be made between the alternative groups and the MSZMP, which directs the system of political institutions, in the process of creating a constitution. We want to issue a statement on what type of constituent national

assembly is possible, or what kind of constituent second chamber." He concludes by saying that the NMF also wishes to continue the assessment of the economic change, and also to evaluate the historical background of Hungarian developments from 1948 to the present.

NEPSZABADSAG Editor on Paper's Changes
LD1001093789 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 1815 GMT 9 Jan 89

[From the "First-hand Information" program; interview with NEPSZABADSAG Editor in Chief Gabor Borbely by presenters Tamas Forro and Henrik Havas; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Presenter] We have spoken to NEPSZABADSAG Editor in Chief Gabor Borbely about the effect of the drastic increase in the price of daily newspapers.

[Borbely] The number of our subscribers went down by the greatest percentage: 34.1 percent. We are closely followed by NEPSZAVA, which lost 33.1 percent of its subscribers. Our subscribers have dropped from 535,000 to 352,500. Of those who have cancelled subscriptions, 32 percent have given the price increase as the unequivocal reason for this. Thirty percent have formulated some criticism as to content; the majority of these persons are white-collar workers. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Are there any persons and opinions which are banned from NEPSZABADSAG today?

[Borbely] As a matter of fact, there are not.

[Presenter] This "as a matter of fact" is a bit suspicious.

[Borbely] Yes, without a doubt that is how it sounds. But there is no list, or instructions, either written or verbal, which say that XYZ, or articles of this or that kind, cannot appear in NEPSZABADSAG. That is why I said "as a matter of fact." [passage omitted]

[Presenter] It is common knowledge that the staff of NEPSZABADSAG is practically being exchanged for a new staff. Very many people have left the paper in recent weeks and months.

[Borbely] Very significant changes have occurred in the editorial section. The change now taking place in NEPSZABADSAG is the kind of change that should have occurred in the past 5, 8 or 10 years.

[Presenter] As for the people leaving the paper, is it not the question that now that the party's direct press leadership has ceased, if possible, then should hardened and tested journalists occupy every important position at NEPSZABADSAG?

[Borbely] That we are providing commissars?

[Presenter] That is my question.

[Borbely] I think not. [passage omitted]

Rakowski 21 Dec 'Closed Door' Speech Cited
AU1001093089 Munich SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG
in German 7-8 Jan 89 p 2

[Thomas Urban report: "Rakowski: The Party Must Reconsider Its Attitude"]

[Text] Warsaw, 6 January—According to a document that has been distributed in Warsaw, Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski is apparently ready to make concessions to the opposition. A paper containing questions that Rakowski asked the PZPR Central Committee in a speech behind closed doors on 21 December was played into the hands of Western correspondents on Thursday [5 January].

In his questions, which were formulated in the form of theses, Rakowski expresses his intention to settle existing conflicts without open force. He states briefly and concisely: "We need social dialogue." According to the paper, he called on the Central Committee members to provide answers to the problems that he had outlined when the session that was interrupted before Christmas is continued. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 19 January.

Some of the theses refer directly to the party members' image of themselves: The PRPZ must ask itself whether it still is the "vanguard." Doubts as to the PZPR's flexibility are also justified in view of a political opponent that has changed. Rakowski points out that in this connection, the party members must also face up to the question of whether radical forces still dominate Solidarity, such as Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik, the advisors of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa.

According to the prime minister, a new situation has emerged after the televised debate between Walesa and the chairman of the official OPZZ trade union, Alfred Miodowicz, at the end of November. The line that only one trade union representation is allowed per enterprise, which has been adopted so far, can no longer be maintained. After the televised debate, observers agreed that Walesa had emerged as the winner. Even Miodowicz admitted publicly: "This was not my day."

Times seem to belong to the past when Walesa was ignored by the official media. Even 3 months ago, it would have been inconceivable for the party organ TRYBUNA LUDU to report on a Walesa news conference, as was the case on Friday [6 January]. The weekly POLITYKA also gave him the opportunity to present his views on the situation of the country in an interview that covered a full page.

In his answers, Walesa presented himself as a moderate leader of a political group that is ready for compromises. He conceded that various things had changed in Poland recently and expressed his willingness to participate in the drafting of rules on how conflicts can be settled without strikes. However, he insisted on his main

demand: There will be no cooperation without the legalization of Solidarity. Asked about the essence of Solidarity, he pointed out: "It is such a broad movement that there is even room for the leadership."

[The following passage is carried boxed within the item] SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG quotes the most important questions from the speech that Polish Premier Rakowski gave at the PZPR Central Committee session behind closed doors on 21 December. The document has been received from reliable sources:

1. "A total of 200 Solidarity founding committees have already sprung up. Several hundred are still expected to be founded. What are we to do? Shall we crush them, tolerate them, or cooperate with them?"
2. "Comrades, check how many workers support Solidarity, and which directors of enterprises."
3. "What is the orientation of Solidarity in the individual enterprises?"
4. "Who are we? Are we still the vanguard? Our opponents have changed, but have we changed as well?"
5. "Who are our opponents? Do radical voices, such as Kuron and Michnik, continue to dominate Solidarity? Does Walesa not suggest a compromise? Shall we pretend to be deaf in view of this?"
6. "The OPZZ has been weakened. The principle 'one enterprise, one trade union' can no longer be maintained after the televised debate. What kind of trade union model do we need?"
7. "We need social peace. Conflicts harm the reform process in Poland. Are the PZPR and the allied partners strong enough to carry out reforms? Comrades, the number of our cadres has been declining since 1981."

Council of Ministers Assesses Rakowski Government
LD1001001989 Warsaw PAP in English
2051 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 9—Poland's Council of Ministers met here today to assess the three-monthly work of Premier Rakowski's government. The ministers exchanged views on the possibility of undertaking short- and long-term activities to improve the living conditions and the functioning of public life. The methods for increasing the Cabinet's efficiency were also discussed as well as the model of the government's and administration's work.

The government did not take any decisions today, the debates were in the form of discussion.

Young Poles Attend 6 Jan PZPR Meeting
LD0601233389 Warsaw PAP in English
2241 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 6—Several hundred young Poles accepted an invitation from the party and attended here Friday an unprecedented open meeting at the PUWP Central Committee. They discussed the party's problems, changes going on within the party and youth's share in these transformations. The meeting and a heated discussion lasted nearly three hours.

Every young man could take part in the gathering, irrespective of his party or organization membership and world outlook. Reporters say there are possibilities to repeat such meetings.

The unprecedented character of the meeting consisted in the fact that those who were called "red spiders" by their contemporaries were able to discuss things with those who are known—mainly at higher schools—for their firm anti-communist attitude. It turned out that it is possible to talk, confront views and hold discussion without preconditions. Nobody was forced either to make the invitation or to accept it.

PAP reporters stress that the meeting passed in an unrestrained atmosphere and there were a few cases of bringing the standpoints closer to one another and of understanding each other's intentions. The predominant questions concerned the party's mandate to play a role of the leader and guarantees for democracy. They asked what is real socialism and whether the party should not promptly turn into a functional and efficient body. Many questions concerned the prospects of overcoming the economic crisis, the round table and amendments to the Sejm election law. The majority of statements were accompanied by a genuine concern and awareness of the need for realistic thinking and, above all, for action.

"It seems to me," one of the participants said, "that there are many sham changes, that a lot has been changed just to keep everything unchanged." One of the "unshakable" stated that non-communists count on the second part of the 10th PUWP CC Plenum. This was linked with a postulate that the party program be addressed to certain circles and classes and that it should be free of ambitions to reconcile the interests of everybody and on every issue.

The meeting was chaired by young political scientist of the Polish Academy of Sciences Pan Slawomir Wiatr. Newly elected PUWP CC Secretary Leszek Miller, who listened to the discussion, did not sum up the exchange of views. He just stressed that such confrontation of opinions is at present necessary for the party, and not only for it. This stems from the will to understand and learn the different opinions, he said.

TASS Interview With Olechowski Reported
LD0901175089 Warsaw PAP in English
1623 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Moscow, Jan 9—The Polish Government lends its consistent support to the program on liquidating nuclear weapons by the end of the century and to Soviet initiatives aimed in that direction, Polish Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski told TASS in an interview timed to mark the third anniversary of Mikhail Gorbachev's project in the field.

He also said the Jaruzelski Plan, submitted by Poland in 1987, received backing from Warsaw Treaty countries and was approached with major interest in other European countries. This offers favourable conditions to develop the proposals contained in the plan and to apply them accordingly at the prospective negotiations on armed forces and conventional arms reductions as well as confidence building and security in Europe.

Church, Underground Journalists Try To Register
LD1001040589 Warsaw PAP in English
2246 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 9—A two day meeting on social communication was organized here over the weekend by journalists representing Catholic and underground press and grouped around Stefan Bratkowski, chairman of former Journalists Association of Poland (SDP).

Those present decided to apply for registration of their own association of journalists.

PAP Responds to RFE's 'Fierce Attack'
LD0901212289 Warsaw PAP in English
1850 GMT 9 Jan 89

["We Agree With Radio Free Europe"—PAP headline]

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 9—The situation that has developed for a few weeks within the Polish opposition has been met by Radio Free Europe with extraordinary nervousness. On January 4, its commentator, Alina Grabowska, tried to minimize the significance of those disputes and launched a fierce attack against the Polish authorities.

Grabowska accused the authorities of using divisions within the opposition to incite some of its representatives against others and to inflame disputes. At the same time she said that "it was none of the authorities' business" and triumphantly announced a fabricated thesis according to which official commentaries unmasked a "real" stand of the party which, in her opinion, considered the opposition not a partner but an enemy.

The truth is diametrically different: the authorities never said they wanted agreement with all opposition groups. The authorities do follow with attention what is going on within the opposition but it would be rather awkward to blame them for their willingness to get acquainted with the potential partners for round table talks.

Radio Free Europe has not a monopoly to comment upon developments within the opposition though one cannot but agree with a characteristic presented by the RFE on January 4 according to which "the Polish opposition today is a very broad and colourful palette. As far as some issues are concerned it is divided, there are personal disputes, charges and grudges. Some of them are not of ideological nature and it would be better if some of them did not exist at all..."

Remarkably, the opinion does not differ from the one expressed by the Polish press.

U.S. Downing of Libyan Aircraft Condemned
AU0901180289 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian
7 Jan 89 p 5

[Dumitru Tinu article: "In the Interest of People's Peace and Security: International Waters, Seas, and Oceans—Free From Any Military Presence!"]

[Text] The U.S. acts of force in the Mediterranean, the massive concentration of warships, and the downing of two Libyan planes by the U.S. Air Force—acts that have given rise to deep concern and disapproval among the Romanian and international publics—have revived one of the most topical issues: the use of the world's seas and oceans.

Consistent with its principled policy, socialist Romania has opposed and continues to firmly oppose armed actions and shows of force in international waters, and advocates seas and oceans free from any military presence. In this sense, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu stressed: "It is necessary to put a halt to any kind of military maneuvers by foreign fleets in international waters, that the fleets of the great powers withdraw from the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, and other oceans, and that firm pledges be made not to violate the freedom of navigation in international waters through military maneuvers or other actions. What we really want is that free navigation be ensured for all nations."

It is known that two thirds of the globe are seas and oceans, an immense area that offers not only an inexhaustible source of natural riches, but also the greatest opportunity for communication between countries and peoples. One can say that today's world cannot be conceived of without the extensive network of sea lines established throughout the centuries, which have facilitated material and cultural exchange between all areas of the globe, thus contributing to the prosperity of the human civilization. Unfortunately, the seas and oceans have not been used solely for peaceful purposes; they were turned into areas of confrontation between the great powers of a given time, they served the organization of expeditions in the colonial era, which were continued in the known "diplomacy of cannons" based on the "right" to force, and of military landings and invasions.

The fact that seas and oceans are used more and more intensively for military purposes is a reality of great concern today. International waters are crossed from one end of the world to the other not only by commercial or cruise liners, but especially by all kinds of warships—beginning with battle cruisers up to aircraft carriers and submarines equipped with the most modern combat technology, including nuclear weapons. At the same time, missile launches, testing of new weapons, and large-scale military maneuvers are taking place more and more frequently in international waters, actions which affect free navigation and also threaten the independence and sovereignty of neighboring countries, as well as international peace and security.

The development of the international situation, including the current serious events in the central Mediterranean, have clearly proved the truth stressed by Romania's president in his new year's message, namely that the world situation continues to be complex, contradictory, and serious, and the danger of war still exists. This assessment is based on the fact that the arms race is being intensified, new weapons, primarily nuclear ones, are being amassed, and the policy of the use and threat of force, of blackmail, and dictate against certain states continues.

Military operations and demonstration of force in international waters can only contribute to the continuation and intensification of tension, and to the deterioration of the world situation. Such acts are even more harmful in the Mediterranean with its large concentration of warships, namely in the immediate vicinity of the conflict zone in the Middle East, which is one of the most persistent and most serious hotbeds constantly posing a great threat for peace in general. Precisely at a time when new prospects have opened to a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the situation in that area, which has been tried so hard, and at a time when a broad trend of opinion has emerged in favor of organizing an international peace conference under UN aegis, measures are resorted to that can only complicate problems even more and make the seeking of just and lasting solutions in keeping with the interests of all peoples in that area even more difficult.

In firmly disapproving such acts, Romania has and continues to believe that no reasons whatsoever can justify resorting to retaliatory and intimidating measures against independent and sovereign states. Considering the tremendous diversity of today's world, it is completely natural that the political and ideological stands of some states differ from those of other states. No one can assume for himself the role of establishing what line one state or another should pursue, let alone apply "sanctions"; such practices are deeply anachronistic and flagrantly at variance with the most elementary norms of international law. It is obvious that those who assume such a role do so by virtue of the power they possess, the missiles they own, and the aircraft carriers with which they have saturated the world. They are the people who have not abandoned the "gunboat diplomacy" for whom the seas and oceans are some kind of inland lakes where they can do whatever they please. One can ask: Where would the continuation and general application of such practice lead?

This is why our country most firmly advocates—as the Romanian press agency statement in connection with the downing of the two Libyan aircraft stressed—the withdrawal of foreign warships from international waters, so that the seas and oceans are free from any military presence. This would be in accordance with the requirements—ever more clearly expressed by the peoples—of turning seas and oceans into zones of peace and cooperation. It is actually well known that the movement for

proclaiming some seas and oceans as areas free from nuclear weapons and foreign military bases has extended worldwide. Seas and oceans, as well as the international airspace and outer space, represent the common heritage of humanity; and they must remain open to all states. However, the presence of hundreds upon hundreds of foreign military bases in the area of seas and oceans, of numerous naval forces, and the almost constant military operations and shows of force seriously affect the natural use of international waters for peaceful purposes and for trade in the interest of the progress of all states and peoples.

In light of these facts, our country believes that one of the most topical requirements is the cessation of any action and show of force in international waters and the adoption of measures at the international level aimed at the withdrawal of the fleets of the big powers, thus creating the necessary prerequisites for seas and oceans to truly become instruments of rapprochement and fruitful cooperation among nations. The general interests of peace and detente require, more than ever before, the entrenchment of the principles of international law and the securing of the necessary framework for developing broad relations based on full equality, respect for national independence and sovereignty, and the renunciation of the use or threat of force, based on each people's sacred right to freely choose its own path to development and to decide its own destiny.

Ceausescu, Dascalescu Congratulate Fidel Castro
AU0901124289 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian
3 Jan 89 p 3

[Telegram from Nicolae Ceausescu, president, and Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister, to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers, on Cuba's National Day; date not given]

[Text] To Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Havana,

On the 30th anniversary of the victory of the revolution in Cuba, we extend warm, comradely greetings and the most cordial congratulations to you, the PCC Central Committee, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, and the friendly Cuban people, on behalf of the RCP Central Committee, the Council of State and the Government of the SR of Romania, the Romanian people, and ourselves personally.

The Romanian people follow with lively interest and sincerely rejoice in the Cuban people's achievements, under the leadership of their Communist Party, in promoting the country's socioeconomic development, raising the material and intellectual living standard, and building the new society in Cuba.

On this occasion, we again express satisfaction with the upward course of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between our parties and countries, and we are convinced that through joint efforts, these ties will further develop, to the benefit and in the interests of our two peoples and of the cause of socialism, independence, peace, and cooperation in the world.

On your national day, we wish you and all Cuban Communists and people new successes in implementing the decisions of the Third PCC Congress and in building the socialist society in your fatherland.

Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania
Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania

Officials Attend Cuban Embassy Reception
AU0601195089 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1941 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 6/01/1989—On the thirtieth anniversary of the victorious revolution—the National Day of the Republic of Cuba, that country's ambassador to Bucharest, Niel Ruiz Guerra, gave a reception on Friday, January 6.

The attendance included Gheorghe Oprea, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, first deputy prime minister, Lina Ciobanu, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, deputy prime minister, Ion Stoian, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee, secretary of the CC of the RCP, ministers, deputy heads of section at the CC of the RCP, representatives of central institutions and of mass organizations, generals and senior officers, men of letters and artists, journalists.

Present were heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Romania, members of the diplomatic corps.

Ceausescu Receives FRG Envoy's Credentials
AU0901182889 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 9/1/1989—On Monday, Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu received Klaus Terfloth who presented his letters of credence as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Romania.

The ambassador's address emphasizes that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is interested in the continuous development of the relations between the two countries, especially of the economic and technical-scientific collaboration, of the cultural exchanges and in other domains.

President Nicolae Ceausescu's address makes reference to the relations of friendship and collaboration between the two countries, stressing that a decisive role in those ties' development had the mutual summit visits and the understandings covenanted on those occasions. It is also appreciated that possibilities are in place for a more intense development of the general relations between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Federal Republic of Germany based on the principles of full equality of rights, national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs and mutual advantage, in the interest of the two countries, of the cause of progress and peace worldwide.

Mihalache Conveys Message to FRG Communists
AU0601195189 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1948 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Bonn, AGERPRES, 6/01/1989—On behalf of the Romanian Communist Party, of its General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu, the delegates to the Ninth Congress of the German Communist Party [GCP], all the communists in the Federal Republic of Germany were conveyed a warm comradely salute and the message of friendship and solidarity of the Romanian Communists by the RCP representative to the proceedings Nicolae Mihalache, member of the CC of the RCP. The message expresses cordial congratulations on the 70th foundation anniversary of the Communist Party of Germany and is highly appreciative of the activity carried on by the West German Communists, led by the GCP, for the safeguarding and promotion of the working people's fundamental interests of welfare and social justice, for peace and progress. The belief is also expressed that the fine ties of friendship and militant solidarity between the RCP and the GCP will further develop in the interest of our two countries, of the cause of peace, socialism and international cooperation.

Received by Communist Chief Mies
AU0901163089 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1557 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Bonn AGERPRES 9/1/1989—The RCP representative at the Ninth Congress of the German Communist Party, Nicolae Mihalache, member of the CC of the RCP, was received by Herbert Mies. On the occasion, on behalf of Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP general secretary, president of Romania, Herbert Mies was conveyed a congratulatory message on his reelection to the office of chairman of the German Communist Party, as well as wishes of health, happiness and ever bigger successes in the party's future activity.

Warmly thanking for the message, Herbert Mies asked that the RCP and Romanian state leader be conveyed cordial wishes of health and power of work, of full success in Romania's socioeconomic development, for the Romanian people's welfare and happiness.

During the interview the mutual wish was expressed to develop the ties of collaboration and solidarity between the Romanian Communist Party and the German Communist Party in the fight for peace, social progress and international collaboration.

Delegations Congratulate E. Ceausescu on Birthday
AU0801152189 Bucharest Domestic Service
in Romanian 0500 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Comrade Elena Ceausescu, member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee, first deputy prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania, and chairman of the National Council for Science and Education, at party headquarters received delegations of the National Council for Science and Technology, the Council for Socialist Culture and Education, the Ministry of Education and Instruction, the Central Council of the General Union of Trade Unions, the National Women's Council, the Central Committee of the Union of Communist Youth, the Council of the Union of Communist Students Associations, the National Council of Pioneers Organizations, and of the Bucharest Municipal RCP Committee.

The delegations conveyed congratulatory messages to Comrade Elena Ceausescu on her birthday and for her longstanding revolutionary activity. With great esteem and appreciation, they extended to her the warmest wishes for good health and happiness, as well as wishes for fresh and ever greater successes and accomplishments in her extensive activity carried out at the side of the party secretary general and president of the Republic, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, for the benefit and prosperity of our homeland and for unflinchingly implementing the bright program of building the comprehensively developed socialist society and Romania's advance toward communism.

In expressing thanks for the messages, Comrade Elena Ceausescu, in turn, wished the delegations, and to all those on whose behalf she was conveyed congratulations, great success in fulfilling their tasks. She also expressed the conviction that they will work with devotion and dedication to fulfill the plans and programs aimed at the homeland's many-sided development and at raising Romania to new heights of progress and civilization.

The delegation members expressed thanks to Comrade Elena Ceausescu for her warm appreciation and mobilizing efforts, which will give an impetus to working collectives to spare no effort in welcoming the 14th RCP Congress and the 45th anniversary of the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution for social and national liberation with fresh and important successes.

Comparison of Ceausescu New Year Message

Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian on 3 January 1989 carries on page 1 the "New Year Message by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu to Our Whole Nation, Broadcast by Radio and Television Stations." The SCINTEIA report

has been compared with the Bucharest Domestic Service version published in the 3 January East Europe DAILY REPORT, page 58, revealing the following variations:

First paragraph, first sentence reads in SCINTEIA:

[Text] Dear Comrades and friends, citizens of the SR of Romania: We conclude the year 1988 with important achievements in developing the forces of production and raising the overall level of civilization of our socialist fatherland. [new paragraph]

In this year... (providing indistinct paragraph)

Page 60, second column, first paragraph, end of last sentence reads: ...its development path, without any outside interference. [new paragraph]

Let us strive to ensure that a new political thinking and concept, new efforts, and a new kind of policy will prevail next year. [new paragraph]

Now, at the beginning of 1989, we call on all states and nations—on behalf of the Romanian people—to strengthen cooperation in achieving disarmament and peace and to conclude the 20th century with the complete removal of many grave and complicated problems facing mankind, so as to step into the 3d millenium with greater prospects and without fear of a nuclear disaster. One should eliminate the world's division into rich and poor and ensure full equality and cooperation among all peoples, in order to promote their socioeconomic progress and facilitate a dignified and civilized life for all nations. [new paragraph]

Dear Comrades and... (providing indistinct paragraphs)

Workers, Students Demonstrate in Titograd

Thousands Outside Assembly

*AU1001113589 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 10 Jan 89*

[Text] Here is a report from our correspondent Jagos Stojanovic on the latest development of the situation in Titograd:

Workers, students, and citizens of Titograd have been protesting outside the Republican Assembly building since this morning. A rough estimate puts the number of people here at 15,000 to 20,000.

Protests are being shouted and songs sung: We want resignations; Who dares to beat the workers; Who allows workers to starve; The workers class is waking up and there is no salvation without it; Comrades are closing ranks, and so on.

The protests were begun by workers at the Radoje Dakic construction machinery plant who arrived outside the Montenegrin Assembly building against the will of their managing structure and collectives and despite warnings from the security organs. Some time later, after a decision by the University Committee for All-Peoples Defense, they were joined in an organized way by students and professors from the Veljko Vlahovic University and then by workers at the Titograd Railroad Transport Organization and others.

Even without questions from journalists, those present say that they are demanding resignations, the fulfillment of the October demands, and more bread and work.

An organizational committee for this meeting is expected to be set up. We have discovered that workers at the Titograd Aluminum Combine will hold their own meeting.

Party and economic structures in Niksic have decided not to go to Titograd.

10,000 Continue Protest

*LD1001115389 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1115 GMT 10 Jan 89*

[Text] Titograd, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—Even 3 hours after the start of the protest meeting in front of the Montenegrin Assembly no one from the municipal or the republican leadership has addressed the gathered workers, students, and citizens, of whom there are already more than 10,000.

Meanwhile, the Radoje Dakic metalworkers, who started the protest gathering, have decided to form an organizing committee which is also to include representatives of other Titograd collectives, whose workers are taking part in the gathering.

Member of the organizing committee Radisav Boskovic stated that the workers are seeking the fulfillment of all the demands made at a similar meeting in October of last year. He also stated that they will persist in their efforts to realize them fully.

Niksic Workers To Join

*LD1001134889 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1320 GMT 10 Jan 89*

[Text] Niksic, 10 Jan (TANJUG)—The collective of the Boris Kidric iron and steel works in Niksic will send its own representatives to the protest gathering in Titograd. This was decided at the extraordinary meeting held today at the factory. They will leave in two buses in an organized fashion.

The Niksic metalworkers fully supported the demands of the Radoje Dakic workers and sent telegrams from their meeting to the party and state leadership of Montenegro calling on them to make "reasonable" decisions that would help overcome the extremely unfavorable situation in the republic.

Demonstrators Present Demands

*AU1001133089 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 10 Jan 89*

[Text] At about 1300 [1200 GMT], the newly-formed organizational committee for the protest rally which has been under way outside the Montenegrin Assembly building since this morning and which is attended by 15,000 to 20,000 workers, students, and citizens, announced the basic demands of the rally.

It is demanding, among other things, the resignation of the Presidium of the Montenegrin LC Central Committee and its executive secretaries, the resignation of members of the LCY Central Committee from Montenegro, and the resignation of the Montenegrin Presidency and the president of the Montenegrin Assembly.

The protest is continuing with speeches by individuals approved in advance by the organizational committee. Drago Sofranac, president of the managing committee of the Radoje Dakic construction machinery plant, and Drago Vucinic, leader of the Titograd Railroad Transport Organization, have spoken so far.

Kanjiza Workers Hold Protest Rally

*LD0401180089 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1520 GMT 4 Jan 89*

[Summary] Kanjiza, 4 Jan (TANJUG)—A protest meeting of about 2,000 workers was held this afternoon in Kanjiza, though production was not suspended in the municipality. The basic message of the protest meeting is the demand for better living standards, an end to price rises, and the curbing of inflation. The protest meeting was organized by the Presidium of the Council of the

Trade Union Federation in the municipality and was addressed, among others, by the president of this Presidium, who said that the workers are not to blame for the present economic situation.

Organizations, Press Views Potential Premiers

Belgrade SAWP Proposals

AU1001155189 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The Commission for Cadre Policy and Social Awards of the City Conference of the Belgrade SAWP proposed Borisav Jovic as a possible candidate for the new president of the FEC. The Presidium of the City Conference of the Belgrade SAWP accepted this proposal as well as the list of possible candidates for the members of the SFRY Presidency from Serbia. Here is a report by Momcilo Boskovic:

The following were proposed for the members of the SFRY Presidency: Slobodan Milosevic, Bogdan Trifunovic, Rados Smiljkovic, Petar Gracanin, Dusan Krecbic, and Nikola Ljubicic.

Explaining this proposal Dragan Tomic, president of the City Conference of the Belgrade SAWP, said among other things:

[Begin Tomic recording] The Commission took into account the demands expressed at numerous rallies that took place in our republic that able, dynamic, and above all morally suitable people, people who are oriented to socialism and Yugoslavia, be elected to the highest post in the country. [end recording]

The Commission for Cadre Policy of the City Conference of the Belgrade SAWP proposed Borisav Jovic as president of the FEC. According to the explanation of the Commission, the Commission decided to propose him because of his expert, moral, and work qualities.

These and all other proposals that will arrive in the Belgrade SAWP will be a topic of discussion at the session of the Presidium of the City Conference of the Belgrade SAWP scheduled for the beginning of February when all these proposals will be reduced to a manageable number.

The Presidium also discussed the results of the Belgrade 88 youth voluntary action in which more than 1,100 young people from all over Yugoslavia took part.

Kosovo on Candidates

AU1001151289 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] So far Kosovo has not proposed its candidate for the new president of the FEC nor, allegedly, is it interested in proposing one.

The political leadership of the province endorsed the names of several candidates for the new president of the FEC. These are: Stefan Korosec, Milan Kucan, Ante Markovic, Tomislav Badovinac, and Slobodan Milosevic.

After the first round of consultations the names of Borisav Jovic and Marko Orlandic were also put on the list.

Bosnian SAWP on List

AU1001151589 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The session of the Presidium of the Republican Conference of the Bosnian SAWP is currently taking place in Sarajevo. The Presidium is discussing the list of candidates for the new president of the FEC. Here is report by Ljubomir Nikolic:

At the session of the Presidium of the Republican Conference of the Bosnian SAWP the representatives of the signatories of the cadre policy accord in this republic expressed the views of their bodies on the candidates for the new president of the FEC. With a general conclusion that the future premier must be a man from developed republics and that Bosnia-Herzegovina does not propose its candidate, they endorsed the following:

The Bosnian Presidency endorsed the candidature of Slobodan Milosevic, Borisav Jovic, Ante Markovic, Milan Kucan, Dusan Sinigoj, Andrej Marinc, Ante Milovic, and Milos Milosavljevic.

The Bosnian veterans' organization endorsed the candidature of Stefan Korosec, Milan Kucan, Andrej Marinc, Slobodan Milosevic, Milos Milosavljevic, and Rodoljub Micić.

The Bosnian LC Central Committee Presidium is in favor of Dusan Sinigoj, Ante Marmovic, Ante Milovic, and Rodoljub Micić.

The session in Sarajevo is still going on and we will report on the final view of the Presidium of the Republican Conference of the Bosnian SAWP concerning the list of candidates for the new president of the FEC in one of our later programs.

Election Examined

AU0501192789 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian
4 Jan 89 p 5

[Zvonko Logar commentary: "What Comes After the Resignation?"]

[Text] Along with many political unknown quantities, yet another one of a somewhat technical nature has been left in the wake of the collective resignation of the FEC: How soon will the new premier-designate be appointed? It may be interesting to mention that this is not precisely

established either in the Constitution or in its amendments adopted last November. It seems that the possibility of such a situation occurred to nobody, although even some of the countries where governments are really governments and not just executive bodies of their parliaments lack a set period within which a premier-designate must be appointed. The rules are nonspecific probably in order to make possible various political maneuvers, something which is particularly typical of multiparty systems with coalition governments.

Only Article 359 of the SFRY Constitution says clearly that the FEC should remain in power until a new FEC is elected. In the meantime, the SFRY Presidency should take upon itself the initiative of starting the initial procedure for electing a new FEC president. As we could read in the Presidency's 30 December announcement, it had already held preliminary talks on that matter. However, there is much more political significance in the fact that as a basic condition, members of the collective head of state have demanded the consistent faithfulness to economic reform of the future FEC and his team.

One can reasonably expect the procedure of electing the first FEC man not to be prolonged too much. We have no personal experience, but it is only logical to assume that too long an interregnum could cause a crisis in the authority of power. Due to our mentality, and particularly the political relations and omnipotence of our republics, the talent for respecting legal order could not be numbered among our exceptional qualities, even during the times when things were in order.

Even many more examples of FEC decisions being violated may appear if the decision on the new team is prolonged. The following example about railroads shows that these are not only empty fears: Despite the Mikulic government's decision to "freeze" railroad charges at the end of December, passengers complain that they started paying new fares on 1 January. Therefore, if the uncertainty is prolonged further, the cases of disobedience can only multiply.

The collective FEC resignation leaves the public guessing about at least three details: who may be considered for the new premier-designate, from which community he will come, and what will be the chosen person's profession.

Devotion to the economic reform is a sufficiently broad term, so it is not difficult to find a candidate with such an orientation. Everybody supports changes, at least in words. It is also extremely uncertain from which community he will come. There is no established order in electing a personality to this office, although the "parity principle" cannot be completely excluded even here. Therefore, the only thing left to us is to recall the past "statistics" in electing the first personality of the FEC.

If one excludes Josip Broz Tito, who was the first premier in socialist Yugoslavia and for some time simultaneously acted as head of state, then the breakdown

according to republics goes as follows: Bosnia - Hercegovina has provided two premiers so far (Dzemal Bijedic and Branko Mikulic), Croatia also two (Mika Spiljak and Milka Planinc), Slovenia one (Mitja Ribicic), Serbia one (Petar Stambolic), and Montenegro also one (Veselin Djuranovic). Only Macedonia has not sent anybody to hold this office.

What is particularly interesting is, what kind of personality the SFRY Presidency will decide on: a professional politician or an expert. If it continues the tradition, it will decide on a politician and not a man who is primarily a professional. Whatever the decision, both choices have some good and bad sides.

If a politician with much authority is chosen, he will find it easier to cope with powerful political centers in the Federation, republics, and provinces. However, politicians are by definition more inclined to make compromises which, truly speaking, are inevitable in politics. At the same time these people, particularly if politics is their only vocation, often have little feeling for that delicate limit beyond which compromises become counterproductive.

When professionals hold such offices, their position toward political centers is much less favorable, but if they are firmly embedded in their vocations and hold their professional integrity and dignity dear, they will find it easier to determine where the limit beyond which a compromise must not go lies.

We do not doubt that the collective head of state will find a person who has a sufficiently good reputation in all of our communities. However, it is expected that it will search for that person among people whose characteristics include not only devotion to future reforms, but also the readiness to persevere on the Yugoslav option. For if last year has left us any message at all, then it is primarily the more than energetic demand of the people—who have emerged as a political factor—that Yugoslavia must at any cost be preserved as a federal, but also a unified state of the people living on its territory.

Press on Potential Candidates

LD0901205689 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1633 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Belgrade, January 9 (TANJUG)—Although the Yugoslav State Presidency is to submit the preliminary list of candidates for premier designate in three days' time, the unofficial list of potential candidates has steadily been growing longer instead of being cut down.

As many as twenty personalities, coming from all Yugoslav republics and provinces, except the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, are being mentioned in the Yugoslav and foreign press as potential successors to Branko Mikulic, whose government collectively resigned on

December 30 last year because of economic policy shortfalls. The Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has given two of the eight Yugoslav premiers since the war, Mikulic having been one of them.

Since the representation of the republics will play no role in the choice of a new premier, the potential candidates for the post have been mainly divided into two groups—politicians and economists.

The best known from the first group are Serbian party leader Slobodan Milosevic, Borisav Jovic and Svetozar Rikanovic, both of Serbia, Ante Markovic of Croatia and Stefan Korosec of Slovenia. The best known names from the other group are those of Zoran Pjanic, Branko Horvat, Ante Cicin-Sain and Oskar Kovac, former member of the Mikulic government who resigned before the cabinet did so collectively.

The foreign press has been also mentioning, as a potential candidate, Marko Orlandic, one of a few officials of the Republic of Montenegro who had enjoyed full popular support during the October demonstrations in that republic.

The possibility of the premiership being taken over by an expert unknown to the general public has also been increasingly rumoured about.

The Yugoslav press feels that the new premier must be an expert with courage. The Belgrade *POLITKA*, for instance, points out that the election of a new premier will be a painstaking job in view of the fact that leading experts, as shown during the reconstruction of the Mikulic cabinet last year, do not seem prone to accept cabinet posts.

According to the Zagreb daily *VJESNIK*, the new Yugoslav premier must be "a consistent, tenacious and uncompromising man of strong moral fiber, who will be ready to resign the very next day after taking office."

The split daily *SLOBODNA DALMACIJA* insists that the new premier must be an expert who will display courage and sincerity and whose primary concern will be Yugoslavia, as a whole, and the solution of the current crisis.

Full commitment to the implementation of the inaugurated economic reform has been added to the list of the general criteria for the election of a new Yugoslav premier by the Yugoslav political leadership.

Mikulic Resignation Makes 'Reform Easier'
AU0501151689 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
4 Jan 89 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Lessons of the Collective Resignation of the FEC: Lid Lifted on Faults"]

[Text] Belgrade, 3 Jan—The most malicious and the shortest commentary on what Mikulic's government will be remembered by is its having submitted its collective

resignation. Speaking about the "government that has tendered its resignation," and thinking about the political situation of this moment in general, the matter is much, much more complicated.

The "offensive" approach by the present FEC contributed to this. It exploited a reason—the fact that the bill limiting common spending had been dropped from the agenda of the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber session—in order to avoid the "January epilogue," which is to say another vote of confidence that, it became quite certain ½ a month ago, would end unfavorably for the premier and his ministers.

In other words, the government submitted its resignation so that it could not be dismissed.

It is this that broaches proper questions, among which those concerning the powers of the federation, the public nature of its work, the road to reform, and the extent of the current crisis are not least important. These are questions on which the results of the work of a new government, or rather the road to the future, depend.

Grist to the Mill of Resignation

The dissatisfaction with Mikulic's government is not of yesterday, but this same government survived the May vote of confidence with a convincing majority. Even at that time, those who supported Mikulic's program assessed that his team was incapable of implementing it, and those who supported Mikulic asserted that his program was no good. From May until this day, these differences have been honed down to complete unanimity which made a sacrifice of Mikulic and his chosen team. Nobody was in favor of him and them any longer. Some one had whispered about this earlier, but the first strong impulse to the general belief that the days of the FEC were numbered was imparted by the 19th LCY Central Committee session when a number of tart words were said in the opening speech and in the discussion on the effects of the economic policymakers.

Afterwards, the trade unions and the assemblies of some sociopolitical communities began to add grist to this mill, competing as to which would scold the government most, and all this was concentrated in a conclusion that boiled down to a single request to the FEC: In January it should submit a report on the implementation of the May measures. The FEC would most certainly fail this test, because the results are catastrophic.

It is not enough that exports have improved and the foreign exchange reserves have been increased. It would have been shown that the scales are leaning to the other side: All the forms of consumption have exceeded the limits set, economic activities have declined, the producers carry a heavier burden of taxes than ever, and inflation jumped all the barriers. In such a situation, the

FEC was fated to be a loser, as successfully as it may be demonstrating that it should not be blamed for everything (just as objectively speaking, everything is not its fault).

However, the way leading to the crash of this government did not begin in May.

It is a matter of both the Mikulic cabinet's aimlessness in the preceding 2 and 1/2 years and the specific vision of the premier. When Mikulic became FEC president in 1986, he radiated optimism and promised the impossible, which may be a matter of political marketing; however, it is a matter of a quite definite outlook by the president when he then said that "the FEC has sufficient constitutional powers." When he explained his resignation a few days ago, he said: "The federation has no powers."

Thus, the man who has been in our politics since he became aware of himself radically changed his opinion in 2 and 1/2 years. Until his accession to the leadership of the FEC, he interpreted our reality through one kind of glasses, but when he reached a position of "the second kind," he realized that those glasses were not suitable.

It is not a matter of Mikulic, however. It is necessary to presuppose that he is a typical example of that kind of our leaders who are theoretically convinced of a number of axiomatic assumptions and of their own strength, and for such people "there are no obstacles on the historical road" up to the minute when they clash with life's realities.

If he who replaces Mikulic would consent to this option—stating that he has sufficient powers and strength—he would be forced to leave the post even sooner. It is certain that if on any occasion Mikulic was right when he said that this government "lifted the lid on faults," at the same time it also lifted the "lid" from itself, remaining completely naked facing the collective ire which has been directed exclusively at it according to the logic of our political practice.

Somebody Must Be Blamed

In May, Mikulic made an instructive statement. He asked at that time why the question of confidence in the federal government—and only the federal government—had been raised, while the executive councils of all the republics and provinces received unreserved support of their assemblies.

The thing is that in such moments of crisis and with the given "division of the information sphere," somebody simply must be found guilty. As the FEC has no "constituency" of its own—it is not Serbian, not Slovene, not Croatian—it is also blamed for the Macedonian, Montenegrin, Kosovo, and all other problems. Considering that both a director and a trainee journalist on a newspaper can publicly attack it with sharp comment, while all the others in charge of economic policy are protected

by the will of the local authorities and by the influence of the same over the public. This prompts the practice that the FEC is blamed for everything.

Considering further that the patience of the people has reached the breaking point, the principle of a "scapegoat" has obviously also begun to work, but this does not mean that this FEC did not deserve what it got.

Its chief fault is that it did not tender its resignation earlier. If it has been clear to anybody what is going on and what limitations are present, it has been clear to this government. In any democratic country, a resignation is primarily an act of "causing a productive crisis" and of opening new prospects to the nation, and it usually turns into an impulse for new solutions and moves, with new people, but in our country it is still maliciously interpreted as a defeat in a "murky Balkan inn," which unfortunately is quite true on most occasions.

Thus Mikulic has gone, but he has left behind much more than just the first government resignation.

Indeed, many delusions have been destroyed, and this will make the road to the reform easier, providing the new government embarks on its business with less heroic optimism and more readiness to suggest, with its act of resignation, to society at large that things do not run in the desired direction.

The strength of a system is not measured by the continuity of power but by the readiness of this power to serve some purpose.

Dizdarevic Emphasizes Importance of Reforms
AU0401133489 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
30 Dec 88 p 1

[M. Malesevic report: "Four Preconditions for Reform"]

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 29 Dec—What has been happening in Belgrade is the reflection of what has been happening throughout the country. What happens in Belgrade also affects what happens in the country. This is why interest in the capital city must be broader than that which exists among the people who live in it. This was stated today by Raif Dizdarevic, president of the SFRY Presidency, during his visit to the Belgrade Assembly.

The following were also the guests of the capital city: Petar Gracanin, president of the Serbian Presidency, Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, Dzevad Mujazinovic, member of the FEC [title as published], and Desimir Jevtic, president of the Serbian Executive Council. The hosts briefed them about the preparations for restructuring the economy, the organization of the nonaligned summit, and the creation of better living conditions for the citizens of Belgrade. [passage omitted]

Constitution Will Resolve Many Things

Yugoslavia does not have any prospects without a reform, above all an economic reform, Raif Dizdarevic said. If the reform is to succeed, we have to accomplish four tasks: halt and reduce inflation; revive and relieve the economy; and stabilize our economic relations with other countries [sentence as published]. Unless we produce more, we will destroy ourselves through the quarrels over the divisions of what we do not have in abundance. The reform requires the people who know how to carry it through and are able to. Belgrade is a great treasure house from which both Belgrade and Yugoslavia can draw.

How do we motivate people to fight for the reform? We can only share and spend what has been created, and we must not impose restrictions on those who are doing well, Dizdarevic stressed.

We should ensure the democratic participation of people in everything that has been undertaken through a rational organization of society. Yugoslavism is realized through the unity and independence of all our peoples as well as through unity and the defense of our country's interests. We must fight against all forms of nationalism. The changes in the Serbian and Kosovo Constitution will solve relations in this republic which have been deficient for many years and which have been the cause of many problems.

Having stressed that the whole country, and especially Belgrade, is well prepared for the forthcoming non-aligned summit, Dizdarevic said that this will represent a great challenge for all Yugoslavs.

After the talks in the Belgrade Assembly, the hosts and the guests visited the building cites of hotels built for the needs of the nonaligned summit.

[The following passages appear boxed within the body of the item]

Undermining Revolution's Achievements

Recently some arbitrary statements have been made about those who fought for this country. We should listen with care to what these people have to say because they are frequently put in the dock as if they were responsible for everything. This amounts to undermining the foundations on which this country was built and on which this country can survive. Many people also have negative attitudes toward the Council of the Federation which mainly consists of the people who built the foundations of this country. This is why we should be attentive to what those who are attacking our country are doing.

Temporary Solutions

When late last night we in the SFRY Presidency analyzed what stage we have reached in the harmonization of views on economic policy instruments and decisions

for next year, we came to the conclusion that we need to adopt more provisional measures than we have adopted in several years in the past. Can the economic reform be founded on provisional solutions? None of our decisions will mean a deviation from the reform, President Dizdarevic said.

SAWPY Official on Alliance Role, Pluralism

LD0401144989 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1350 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Belgrade, January 4 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Communists must realize that political and party pluralism will practically be inevitable if they continue to take a patronizing attitude towards the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia, the largest political organization in the country, Nenad Bucin, member of the Socialist Alliance of Yugoslavia leadership, has stated in an interview published in the daily POLITIKA EKS-PRES today.

If the initiative for forming new parties—raised in the most highly developed Yugoslav republic of Slovenia—is not properly answered, a radical reform of the political system will be unavoidable, Bucin warned.

Bucin, former head of the Socialist Alliance of Yugoslavia, said that the concept of the Socialist Alliance as a closed, insular and unresponsive organization was now suffering a heavy defeat.

The Socialist Alliance has two choices—either to become a broad organization which will be open to and will reflect the pluralism of self-management and political interests or to bow to all demands including such extremist ones as is the call for forming new parties, Bucin set out.

Bucin, while Socialist Alliance of Yugoslavia president, had engaged in a verbal duel with the then Yugoslav party leader Milanko Renovica, a duel which was interpreted as an effort to draw a distinct line between the Socialist Alliance and the League of Communists. Had only the line been actually drawn, Bucin said in the interview.

Without sparing sharp words, Bucin said that Renovica had strayed into the highest Yugoslav political leadership, that is, into the most sensitive political office.

Renovica resigned to his membership in the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Central Committee at the peak of the "Neum affair", an affair which has shown that many officials of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina had illegally obtained credits with which to build luxurious villas in the Adriatic resort of Neum. Many things are now in their right place and Renovica, himself, has stepped down from a post which he could have taken over only "at crazy a time, by a game of chance", Bucin said. [sentence as received]

It is regrettably, still far more important in Yugoslavia who is talking than what the person is actually saying, and, for as long as it is so, we shall have the same results as now, Bucin set out. Underscoring that he expects a great deal of the three reforms, economic, political and party, Bucin said it was the most important to rule out the possibility of having incapable politicians in office.

Slovene LC in 'Skirmish' With New Parties

AU0801204889 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Relja Atanasijevic report]

[Text] In less than 1 year the idea of political pluralism experienced such evolution in Slovenia that it had resulted in a series of practical moves. The most spectacular thing was the founding of new Slovene associations, the Peasant, the Democratic, and the Social Democratic Unions. At the same time the Socialist Youth Organization and the Trade Union Federation are shaping their political autonomy.

Other social movements are striving for their autonomy. In fact political pluralism already exists in Slovenia. This pluralism is displaying some of its classical characteristics. In the redistribution, that is to say distribution of power, everybody is interested in securing his own share of cake in the parliamentary democracy. According to the current legal provisions, the path to this share is via the SAWP as a place where the programs of all collective members of this mass organization, including the LC, are competing.

The first skirmishes have already started. The representatives of the three new parties are trying, all in their own way, to push the LC away from the political scene, offering their organizations instead of the party which, as they say, is no longer needed by anybody. The republican Central Committee replied to them by saying that the communists do not need the help of the new parties to come down from power. At the same time it told them that the LC is giving up its privileged position, on the condition that this position is not taken by anybody else. The affected unions insultingly replied that they could not understand why the LC is using such an authoritative criterion.

The paradox lies in the fact that the leaders of those parties quickly forgot that they themselves were against the privileged position of the LC which now they want to grab themselves. These skirmishes are only an interlude to the game of Slovene political pluralism which at present looks as a swollen river. It is difficult to predict the course of events because what is needed first is to make a number of very significant and well thought-out moves such as to carry out a general overhaul of the SAWP and define its new rules of the game, and clarify the question of redistributing power and dilemmas concerning parliamentary democracy.

Answers to these and other questions should also be given by the new republican and federal constitutions.

Some individuals in Ljubljana are of the opinion that the reaction by the widest Yugoslav public to the flood of political pluralism in Slovenia, where what was until now a fantasy is reality, will also be important.

In this context they think that no political system can remain in its original concept because there is always a need to establish new relations with time and people. However, they are also aware that there is certain fear from the unknown elements of the political-pluralistic scene, fear from the uncertain and, as they say, unavoidable political market.

Serbia, Vojvodina Prepare for Joint Session

LD0601085789 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1242 GMT 5 JAN 89

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 5 Jan (TANJUG)—There was no putsch in Vojvodina this autumn. Major inevitable changes were the issue, changes which people asked for by opposing autonomy oriented, bureaucratic-dogmatic leadership and by opening up the way for strengthening unity and creativity in Serbia.

This evolution pervades today's joint session of the Presidia of the Serbia LC Central Committee and the Vojvodina LC Provincial Committee dedicated to preparations for the next Vojvodina LC Conference, scheduled for 19-20 January in Novi Sad.

The following members of the LCY Central Committee Presidium are present at the session: Radisa Gacic, Dusan Ckrebic, both Serbian representatives, and Ivan Brigic.

Talking about the current situation in the Vojvodian LC 5 months after 5 October, the introductory speaker, Miodrag Koprivica, secretary of the presidium of the Vojvodina LC Provincial Committee, said that a wide process of democratization is opened up and openness in work, which was not long present in this environment, is being fought for. According to him, political action of communists is characterized by mass participation, a high level of critical activity, initiatives, and readiness to perform obligations. LC members insist that ideopolitical differentiation be fully implemented and that responsibility be established for all proponents of the wrong policy. The Provincial Committee and its Presidium will fully implement these tasks because it must be clear to everyone, Koprivica said, that one must account for the wrong policy and that there is and can be no compromise on this issue.

Koprivica warned that attempts to formalize evaluations of the leadership's work and attempts to halt the addition, especially in certain environments where it is expected that 'higher' organs 'finish off' the job, have been observed, and that the whole process is thought to

be painless and everything will stay as it was. This leadership will not allow this, Koprivica stressed, and warned that individual responsibility will be established and ideopolitical measures will be pronounced to bearers of the highest functions who were also creators of the wrong policy at a Vojvodina LC Provincial Committee meeting on 9 January. Attempts to avoid responsibility, for instance, by returning party membership cards, resigning without discussions, or other ways, were unsuccessful, Koprivica said, and added that the process of differentiation and cadre renewal will be carried out in other socio-political organizations and organs of authority in the province, and in the current affairs media. [passage omitted]

In concluding remarks, Koprivica pointed especially to dissatisfaction with the Kosovo situation. He described the mood of people in Vojvodina regarding the situation as being characterized by anger, revolt, and disappointment. People are prepared to forgive us inflation and lower standards of living but they will not forgive opportunism when Kosovo is in question. For that reason LC members strongly demand establishing individual and collective responsibility in the LCY, especially in the Kosovo LC, Koprivica said. [passage omitted] [transmission interrupted; TANJUG part 3 not received]

Dr Rados Smiljkovic argued against some theses which are, he said, still in circulation on the political action in Vojvodina. First of all, he contested the claim that this province was, until last October, the most stable factor of unity in Yugoslavia and Serbia by saying that exactly the opposite is true. After all, he added, if it were so, the previous Vojvodinan leadership would not have been so violently relieved of power. Smiljkovic opposed the stance that those who were most prominent in the October events should not take the leading positions in Vojvodina, saying that such reasoning means that Tito should have given up his position after the war to those who until then were on the sidelines. [passage omitted]

Petar Gracanin made the assessment that a lot of work will be needed to explain how it was possible that the LC in the country developed a policy of slowly breaking up and dividing on a national basis, and even, the de facto division of one nation. The process of opening up toward the republic that started in Vojvodina is also necessary in Kosovo. The prospect of better days will not come by itself, although economic interests and laws are doing what they can so that provincial leadership will play a major role in that respect, Gracanin concluded. [transmission interrupted; TANJUG part 6 not received]

Ratomir Vico said that the Yugoslav spirit that overlooks Serbia and Belgrade is false. Milenko Markovic noted that Yugoslav orientation had been proved until recently in Vojvodina precisely on the platform of confrontation with Serbia, which could not be accepted.

Now some feel that the cadre renewal is taking the character away from this province, politically speaking, and as obedience to the Serbian leadership, Markovic added.

Special attention was paid today to the role of the internal affairs and state security services in autonomy-oriented policy. Milomir Jakovljevic said that the leaders of these services burned papers after the October events which were evidence for helping the autonomy-oriented policy and of overstepping the limits prescribed by law. However, there are witnesses who claim that participants in meetings were filmed, that files were compiled on them, Jakovljevic said, adding that besides the political action and differentiation begun in the internal affairs and state security services of Vojvodina, there also are things to be done for other organs. According to Dragic Jokic, those who are the backbone of the autonomy-oriented policy are employed in the services. Tomislav Jovanovic made the assessment that it is not accidental that there still is "silence and waiting for something" in the services. [passage omitted]

Concluding the discussion, Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Serbian LC Central Committee Presidium, stressed that although he accepts warnings about resistance by remnants of the old, wrong policy, he is firmly convinced that the policy of brotherhood and unity will win in Vojvodina and that the separation with the policy of division, which was anti-Serbian and anti-Yugoslav, petty ownership-minded, and conservative, cannot be stopped.

According to Milosevic, the greatest quality of the changes in Vojvodina is en masse support for them by all nations and nationalities in the province, which exposed the most loathsome lie that Serbia is advocating inequality of nations. It is, however, clear that the great majority of Vojvodina inhabitants of all nations and nationalities was in an unequal position in respect to its leadership.

That leadership did not have a program, its aim was the preservation of personal and group interests. It even allied itself with the most conservative forces, like Albanian nationalism and separatism, and persecuted the most humane and progressive forces when they came into opposition with them, Milosevic stressed.

Vojvodina played an enormous role in strengthening brotherhood, unity, togetherness, and progressive changes in Serbia, Milosevic said, going on to stress: We wanted to achieve the following with changes in the political system in Serbia: That it be constitutionally united, that it be equal with other republics in Yugoslavia, and that it not carry the burdens of complexes and guilt during the struggle for these demands. We want to present our demands publicly and straightforwardly, and to fight for them energetically and honestly, Slobodan Milosevic said at the end of the session.

Albanian Demonstrators Go on Trial in Skopje
LD0501133589 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1152 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Skopje, 5 Jan (TANJUG)—A trial has started in the Skopje District Court of a group of five demonstrators of Albanian nationality from Kumanovo who on 29 August last year in Kumanovo fomented national, racial, and religious hatred, divisions, and intolerance.

In the dock are Liman Jasari (48) from Pristina, Ridvan Jasari (25), Nedzbedin Jasari (32), Skipi Jasari (27), and Dzevad Jasari (29), all from Kumanovo.

According to the indictment, during 1980 and up to September last year, the principal accused, Liman Jasari, fomented, through hostile propaganda, intolerance between members of the Macedonian nation and the Albanian nationality living in Macedonia, Kumanovo, and the village of Stajkovci, near Skopje. On several occasions, in the presence of the accused and other people, he talked about and extolled the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and justified the events in Kosovo in 1981.

On several occasions Liman Jasari also called for Kosovo to be given the status of a republic and tried to convince the accused that the position of the Albanian nationality in Yugoslavia in particular in the SR of Macedonia, was difficult. He also claimed that in Kumanovo Albanian-owned houses were pulled down illegally and that a "ban" had been imposed in teaching Albanian. Liman Jasari justified last year's hostile demonstration in Kumanovo. The accused also opposed the formation of mixed classes in Kumanovo schools.

Albanians Defend Population Policy
AU0401202689 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
29 Dec 88 p 5

[Milos Antic article: "Giving Birth to Poor Rebels"]

[Text] As soon as yet another Kosovo taboo theme was removed—this refers to demographic trends and an open discussion on an excessively high Albanian birth rate which is currently 24.6 per thousand—it immediately found itself, as if according to some kind of written rule, on the "slippery ground" of the guardians of all Kosovo mists [probably referring to a recent Kosovo film "Guardians of the Mist"]. Until recently the heretic proposals by rare individuals that the Albanian birth rate (the highest in Europe and among the highest in the world) must be halted "because even the Japanese and German productivity together would not be able to sustain it" were opposed by some people and by "ill-informed and tradition-bound individuals." One could have perhaps regarded this as sporadic resistance. However, when the day before yesterday family planning, which is to say a planned demographic orientation as the first and most important precondition for the development of the region, was opposed by a fairly large group of

the Kosovo Assembly delegates of Albanian nationality, then one can no longer talk about individuals, let alone "uneducated, tradition-bound, and misled people," but about conscious delegates who speak on behalf of their grass roots.

Overlooking Unemployment

Here is what some of these delegates said:

Sadik Zuka claimed that "this question was deliberately polarized and that it was directed against Albanians." Agron Daka added that "this was cooked up in the Serbian kitchen, particularly by Dobrica Cosic and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts." He wondered why Kosovo was discriminated against in this respect "because a higher birth rate is stimulated in other areas while in Kosovo it is administratively prohibited." Abaz Kastrati wanted to know "whether a law on the restriction of births existed anywhere in the world, and whether things that are being done in Kosovo existed anywhere in the world."

Citing, as he himself said, Aristotle, Caesar, and Hugo, delegate Sulejman Madjuri said that "an increase in population represents an increase in the country's wealth and that we should be pleased to have such wealth." Fljamur Goranci wondered "whose idea it was to prevent somebody from having children when, for instance, Tito was godfather to every tenth child. Do those who have proposed this not see that they are damaging our country's reputation?"

If all this had happened at some other session of the Kosovo Assembly, particularly in the Chamber of Associated Labor, a discussion like this would have perhaps had a slightly milder tone. The paradox is even greater considering that all this took place during a discussion about next year's development and when on several occasions it was stated that "unemployment was the greatest problem," that "the number of those looking for a job through self-managing interest communes is rapidly approaching 200,000," and that "there are at least twice as many of those who are not looking for a job because they know that they will not find it."

During the same discussion, regardless of a warning that Yugoslavia provides \$1 million for Kosovo every day, the delegates did not approve some federal acts "because they believed that they did not provide sufficient funds for Kosovo." Put in simple economic terms, the above-mentioned and all other delegates of the Kosovo Assembly know that funds from Yugoslavia make up 70 percent of the province's budget, that a considerable part of these funds is used to finance social and other services in Kosovo, and that Yugoslavia will finance the formation of new communes....

Therefore, everything is known, especially that huge social funds that had been invested by Yugoslavia have hardly produced the expected results. It is also known

that the increasingly weak Yugoslav economy is more and more frequently wondering where these funds are spent and whether they could mean anything in view of the population explosion. If by the end of this century there are 20,000 to 30,000 more people looking for a job, then the number of unemployed in the year 2,000 will be almost 300,000 which will, together with the current number of unemployed, represent a real army of nearly one million unemployed people!

Politicization of the Birth Rate

Are those who so zealously advocate the continuation of high birth rates aware of what this could mean in the social and political sphere of this country? According to what has happened in Kosovo it seems that they are more than aware of it, and not unaware as some people are trying to prove and demonstrate.

As far as the political aspect of the problem is concerned, it is more than true that somebody is trying to politicize this issue. It is not difficult to guess who that is. This is also done by those who "heartrendingly" speak on behalf of those Albanian women "who want to have so many children;" who, not presenting even a single fact, claim that "the Serbian policy is hindering their development;" who, by confusing the issue, already blame others for the serious problem of unemployment; and who claim from such official rostrums as the assembly rostrum that nobody in the world plans birth rates. Along with them are all those who have "forgotten" to explain to the simple folk that the annual increase in population in Kosovo is "eating up" the entire national income realized through the country's investments in this province. Nobody has remembered to say that Kosovo is already too cramped and that this is a reason for the emergence of new settlements, very often illegally built, on the most fertile land....

If one adds to all this the fact that the spiritual leaders of the greater Albanian separatist movement in Kosovo set as their prime objective the "need for the greatest possible increase in the number of Albanians in Yugoslavia" because this would be the fastest and the least painful way of creating an ethnically pure Kosovo, then many things become clear. They are even clearer in view of the fact that last fall in every distributed leaflet—and there were hundreds of these—Albanian nationalists pleaded "do not let the Serbian clique restrict births because...."

Each additional opposition to the planned population policy and especially to the announced resolution is, to put it mildly, nothing but opposition to the essential and, we would say, vital needs and changes in Kosovo. Maintaining the status quo even in this vital area means nothing but cutting off the developmental branch that is being sat on. When this comes from official places, this amounts to the same thing as the demand for the 1974 Constitution not to be changed, that is, for no one to be held responsible for the tragic consequences of the

Kosovo drama. Concealment under a veil of "pressures" from Serbian nationalists or from some people "who are against Albanians" is nothing but a tested bait for winning over the Albanian masses.

In the year of the beginning of the reform, if there is the desire for Kosovo to catch this last train for the future, someone, and we know who this is in this society, would have to quickly "get rid of" all these obstructionists, because it is more than obvious that they support the bearing of poor dissatisfied people who they can more easily manipulate.

Kosovo Academics Protest Removal of Plaque
AU0901151789 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian
4 Jan 88 p 13

[Unattributed report: "An Uncultured and Uncivilized Act"]

[Text] The Board of the Department of Albanian Language and Literature at the Pristina Faculty of Philosophy, at its meeting on 30 December 1988, discussed the report of the decision of the Bitola Communal Assembly to remove the memorial plaque from the building where the congress for the standardization of the Albanian alphabet known as the Congress of Manastir [Albanian name for Bitola] was held, and on this occasion decided to make a strong public protest.

The decision of the Bitola communal authorities to remove the memorial plaque from the building where the Albanian alphabet congress was held 80 years ago is not only a strange and intolerable act, but is totally uncultured and uncivilized. As such, it is in total opposition to the elementary standards and principles of the policy of our country, as well as to the international norms relating to historical and cultural monuments wherever they may be situated.

The Congress of Manastir represents an important and progressive event for all the Albanian people, an event that was one of the key moments in their efforts for general cultural and intellectual emancipation. This congress, under the historical circumstances of the enslavement of both the Albanian and Macedonian peoples under the Ottoman Empire, was held after much effort and sacrifice, but also with the help and support of all the progressive forces of the time. For this reason, the SAWP of the SR of Macedonia and the other legal authorities of this republic were involved in the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of this congress in 1968, and saw the justice of mounting this memorial plaque. The present step on the part of the Bitola communal authorities seems strange and absurd at a time of general efforts to assert the complete equality of our peoples and the nationalities in our country, as well as to bring together and promote cooperation among the peoples of the Balkans and beyond on the threshold of the 21st century. At a time when it would have been natural to expect a decision to declare this building a cultural monument

under state protection, and to hold cultural events marking the 80th anniversary of the congress, we are confronted with an arbitrary and backward-looking act of the very opposite kind.

This incident has aroused deep indignation among the public, and there is no reason not to consider it a further link in the chain of measures against Albanian language and culture in different fields in the SR of Macedonia, including schools, bilingualism in the administration, the use of place names, and public signs.

The statement concludes by stating that for all these reasons, in all the instances we have mentioned, we demand the annulment of this decision of the Bitola communal authorities, and a commitment to the necessary protection of this important cultural monument.

Allegations Against Culafic Denied

AU0401123989 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian
30 Dec 88 p 11

[Unattributed report: "There Is No Information That Criminal Proceedings Had Been Started Against Predrag Culafic"]

[Text] The Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs is not in possession of any information suggesting that criminal proceedings had been initiated or carried against Predrag Culafic—this was stated by the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs following a question raised by delegate Bogdan Sunderic in the SFRY Assembly on 28 December. The question addressed to the Federal Secretary for Internal Affairs was: "How does the federal secretary for internal affairs explain the fact that his brother is a high ranking official in the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs? Is it true that serious criminal charges exist against Dobroslov Culafic's brother, but that they are all energetically rejected without an investigation and without the presentations of facts that would deny this slander, thanks to Dobroslov Culafic's intervention? It is evident from articles carried by the public information media that certain instances of abuse were committed by Dobroslov Culafic's brother while he was the president of the Budva commune. What does the secretary for internal affairs know about it?"

The Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs issued the following statement:

"In accordance with the Rules of Procedure on the work of the Federal Chamber, the federal secretary for internal affairs will answer the raised question. However, because of the allegations contained in the question, and in view

of possible consequences for the reputation and work of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs, this Secretariat is of the opinion that the public should immediately be informed about the following facts:

"Predrag Culafic, an employee of the Federal Secretariat, had been working for the organs of internal affairs in Montenegro since 1967 with a break of 4 years when he was the president of the Budva commune. He has been working for the Federal Secretariat since 1 January 1983, 1 and half years before Dobroslov Culafic was appointed federal secretary for internal affairs.

"Up to now, the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs has not had any information on whether criminal procedures or procedures for misdemeanor have been started or are carried against Predrag Culafic, nor that any charges have been filed for initiating such procedures.

"According to the official information from appropriate organs in Budva, during his stay and work in Budva, that is to say when he was the president of the Budva commune, no criminal proceedings or proceedings for misdemeanor were carried out against Predrag Culafic, nor was there any question concerning his political or any other accountability.

"Therefore, the statements contained in the delegate's question do not correspond to the facts. Thus the Federal Secretary for Internal Affairs did not and could not exert influence, that is to say, intervene in something that did not exist."

Loncar Sends FRG's Genscher Message on Visas
LD0601130289 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1159 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Belgrade, 6 Jan (TANJUG)—Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, has sent a message to Hans Dietrich Genscher, FRG minister of foreign affairs, concerning the introduction of visas for Yugoslav citizens.

Presenting the Yugoslav stance on this question, Budimir Loncar points out in the message that the return to a system of visas between the two countries cannot be appropriate to the overall development of, and level achieved in, their mutual relations.

He also notes that such a measure would be at odds with developments in the modern world, and in particular in inter-European relations, and that it cannot be an exemplary way of resolving the problems which stem from time to time from the free movement of citizens.